

C THE ANCIENT *Physician*
PHYSICIAN'S

LEGACY to his COUNTRY,

Being what he has collected in
Forty-Nine Years Practice:

O R

An Account of the several Diseases incident to
Mankind, in so plain a Manner, that any
Person may know the Nature of his own
Distemper, and the several Remedies proper
for it, wherein the extraordinary Effects of
Mercury are more particularly consider'd.

Design'd for the Use of all Private Families.

By THOMAS DOVAR, M. D. With Remarks
on the Whole by a Learned Physician.

To which is added (being a proper Supplement to the
WORK) a New Translation of a Treatise of Mercury,
and the wonderful Cures performed by it: Written by
the Learned *Belloste*, Author of the *Hospital Surgeon*.

With a compleat INDEX to the Whole.

L O N D O N:

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THE ANCIENT
PHYSICIAN'S
LEGACY to his COUNTRY.



I HAVE spent the greatest Part of my Life without the least Thought of becoming an Author ; and if it should be asked, What makes me now appear in Print : I answer, That I have acquired in Physick, by my long Study and Practice, what I conceive may be for the common Benefit of Mankind ; and therefore I publish my Observations.

If this should not be allowed as a sufficient Reason by some who have expressed no good Will towards me, it will give me but little Concern : I leave what I write to the unprejudiced Reader.

My Design is to touch on such Parts of Physick, as I conceive most necessary to be

understood by every Practitioner, and which seem to me hitherto to have been neither explained, nor accounted for in a proper Manner, notwithstanding the voluminous Works in which they have been treated of.

Authors for the most Part follow one another, and deviate but a little from the common Track. This Method I shall in no wise pursue ; my Design being to set down only such Things as have occurred to me from the Practice and Experience of *forty-nine* Years.

It is essentially necessary in the Cure of Diseases, to be thoroughly acquainted with the Nature of them : Without this Knowledge, no Good is to be done. On the contrary, much Harm may probably ensue from the Physicians mistaking the Patient's Case ; which in some Persons is easily discovered, in others very difficult to understand.

This, I apprehend, proceeds from the Affinity and Resemblance there is between different Diseases ; which, though often attended with the same Symptoms, yet proceed from different Causes, and consequently require various Methods of Cure : For which Reason the Physician should be very cautious in prescribing, till he has fully examined the Symptoms of the Disease, and compared them with the several Answers of the Patient, till he has just Reasons to think he understands the Nature of the Distemper.

Complicated Cases are most difficult ; neither is it possible to determine any Thing of them

them before they happen, by reason of their various Degrees, and uncertain Combinations:

In these Cases, so very hard to be adjusted, a Physician may chance to err a little; but in simple Diseases, the Mistakes admit of no Excuse.

To go no farther than a Dropsy. — I have attended some Persons in this Distemper, where it has taken very deep Root. — Their Legs, Thighs, and Bodies, have been blown up like Bladders; yet some of these Persons have been blooded four or five Times, in order, as was said, to relieve their Shortness of Breath; whereas, Shortness of Breath is not always an Indication for Bleeding.

There are three Causes of a *Dyspnœa*, or Shortness of Breath; Inflammation, Convulsion, and Plenitude: Bleeding in Convulsions, if it has not been, ought to be exploded; and in Fulness, occasioned by Dropsies, it is pernicious to the last Degree.

I shall make no Scruple to affirm, That Shortness of Breath, though it be what we term *Actio Læsa*, makes no Distemper, without some other bad Symptoms attending it; if it did, a Man who runs, or uses any violent Exercise, causing Shortness of Breathing, might be said to be distempered.

Neither in other Cases is Shortness of Breath to be looked on as any Thing but the Effect of some Disease, causing great Weakness, which on the least Motion is followed with Difficulty of Breathing.

It may seem strange that this Disease, viz. a Dropsy, should be so grossly mistaken ; when the Condition of a Woman, near the Time of her Delivery, is not more apparent to the Eye, than that of an Hydropical Person. However, this shews what great Reasons there are to set the Symptoms of Diseases in as clear a Light as possible.

I shall, in the Prosecution of this Subject, take Notice, in a very brief Manner, of the Fluids in human Bodies ; a Point very necessary to be understood, because they are the Seat of all Distempers ; whereas the solid Parts are only passive — Little, that I can find, has been said of this Matter, though the right Understanding of it is of so great Use in the Art of Healing.

Instead of giving us such necessary Preliminaries, many lay the whole Stress of curing Diseases upon the Number of their Receipts, stuffing their Books with long and tedious Prescriptions ; which is little better than teaching us how to cure People, before we know the Nature of their Distemper.

This brings to my Mind a Saying of that good and truly honest Man Dr. Sydenham :
 — *Medicæ Artis pompa & dignitas non tam formularum Concinnitate & Elegantia, quam Morborum curatione cernitur.*

The late famous Dr. Radcliff was of Opinion, That it was expedient for young Gentlemen, entering upon our Profession, to travel ; and that such as pursued their Studies
 at

at Home, could not (allowing they have had the Advantages of an Academical Education) improve themselves equally with those that spend many Years Abroad, and make good Use of their Time — This was his Reason for settling annual Pensions upon some young Physicians, that they might be in a Capacity to travel.

Perhaps he had done better, if he had obliged those Gentlemen to practice Physick, at least ten Years, before their setting out for foreign Parts : They would then have been much more capable of making such Observations, as might be of singular Use to them ; and 'tis farther my Opinion, That if he had ordered them to visit the most intemperate Climates, where all acute Diseases are the most violent, they would have returned Masters of greater Knowledge and Experience, than they can ever acquire by only passing through the most healthy Parts of *Europe*, which seems more like travelling for the sake of their own Health, than that of other People.

If travelling be necessary to make an accomplished Physician, I am very sure that I have travelled more than all the Physicians in *Great-Britain* put together.

But I am going a little out of my Way, and shall therefore return to what I at first proposed ; wherein, if I fall short, I shall yet please myself in my sincere Design of being beneficial to Mankind. All I desire of

those who find fault with my Performance, is to produce a better in its Room.

In the Account I give of Diseases, I shall endeavour to be as short and intelligible as possible.—The usual and general Division of Distempers is into Chronical and Acute, and each Branch of them is subdivided into many particular ones.—The most common I hope to describe in so plain a Manner, that even the Patient himself shall be able to give a proper Name to his Disease.

—To begin then with the Chronical. — Which as they are the most difficult to be remedied, so are they many Times equally difficult to be known. — Of these the most common, and most painful (though I think not the hardest to be cured) is the Gout.

GOUT, or ARTHRITIS.

THIS has various Names, according to the Parts affected: 'Tis termed *Podagra* when in the Foot, *Chiragra* when in the Hand, *Gonegra* when in the Knee, *Sciatica* when in the Hip.

'Tis strange to see how often Physicians call this Distemper a Rheumatism, and a Rheumatism the Gout. — The Difference between them will plainly appear from the Description I shall give of these two Distempers.

Of

Of the several Names above set down, a regular Gout may most properly be termed *Podagra*, because it begins in the first Joint of the Great Toe, and that usually about Midnight; where, after it has rack'd the Patient forty-eight Hours with a violent fix'd Pain, a small Tumor begins to appear, increasing gradually; after that, an Inflammation, and then the Violence of the Pain abates.

The first Fit may last a Fortnight, or three Weeks; but a great Weakness, and Tenderness in the Part afflicted, remains much longer.

The Patient may feel no more of this Disease for two or three Years, or at soonest, a Twelvemonth: But what adds much to the Misfortune of this Distemper, is, That every Fit becomes more painful, and the Paroxysms more frequent and lasting.

The Gouty Matter increasing, rises to the Ancles and Knees, which, as was said before, swell with Inflammation: This Degree of the Distemper, by some Authors, is called *Morbus Articularis*, and is always attended with a symptomatical Fever; for as the Pains wear off, the Fever abates.

Thus it takes its Progress, increasing by Degrees, till the Patient, in Length of Time, is tormented with Chalk Stones working out of the Joints, attended with other melancholly Circumstances.

It must be observed, towards the latter End of this Disease, when the Fluids are al-

most wholly changed into Gouty Matter, the Fits are not so regular, nor the Pains so violent; but then the Patient is seldom free from them.

Physicians have been much mistaken about the Cause of this Distemper: That it is Matter, appears from the Tumors and Inflammation that attend it; but the Difficulty lies to find out the *Nature* of this Matter. — I shall venture to affirm 'tis an *Alkali*: That the Chalk-Stones that work out of the Joints are such, appears from the Fermentation occasioned by Acids, which in small Quantities cause Pains in Gouty Persons: These Pains proceed from the Acids meeting with a contrary Quality, whereby a preternatural Fermentation is raised in the distempered Part; and this creates a Heat and Burning, the Heat being an Effect of that Fermentation or Motion, according to the Learned Dr. *Willis*, whose Treatise of Fermentation I prefer to his other Works: If I mistake not, he gives this Definition of it, viz. "*Motus Intestinalis ad perfectionem alicujus Corporis, vel ad Intermecionem ejusdem.*"

There have been so many unsuccessful Attempts made to master this Disease, that Patients have very little Faith left, and (as they commonly say) have no Hopes from any Thing but Patience and warm Flannel: But with Submission, keeping the Part warm is wrong, because 'tis *proprium Caloris attrahere*; and does, beyond doubt, attract Gouty Matter to the Part.

Not-

Notwithstanding the many fruitless Attempts that have been made to cure this miserable Distemper, Providence has in this, as well as in all other Diseases, left Means for our Recovery, which in many Instances I am able to make appear. I shall refer to one where the curious may be satisfied: The Coachman of the Right Honourable the Lord Viscount *St. John*, had a long and tedious Fit of the Gout, and was hardly able to stir without Crutches: I gave him a very pleasant easy Sudorific, which had its desired Effect: — Infomuch that the Day following, he walked from *Albemarle-street*, to *Cecil-street*, to give me Thanks. He came to me without the Help of a Stick, and with strait Shoes on: The Swelling was entirely gone: He affirmed that he was never better in his Life; and that he was able to walk from one End of the Town to the other. This is about fifteen Years ago; and the Fellow has never had any Return since, tho' he was much afflicted with it many Years before. — It may be asked, Will he never have it again? The same Question may be asked of any Fever (except some few with Eruptions;) for many Persons are very subject to Fevers every Spring; yet I presume no Body will say a Patient was not cured of a Fever he had fifteen Years since, tho' he should happen to have a Fever again this Year.

It will, I hope, at least, be granted, That such long Intervals add much to the Comfort

fort of Life; and I am confident there is no Body can have the Gout to that Degree, but that there may be a Rebate given to his Pains. — He may find great Relief without Opiates, or painful Remedies, which I am a Stranger to, and very much dislike.

To Ease the GOUT.

“ Take Tamarinds half an Ounce, Leaves
 “ of Senna two Drams, Rheubarb one Dram,
 “ boil them in Water to three Ounces, strain
 “ them off, and dissolve in them of Manna,
 “ and the purging Syrup of Roses, each one
 “ Ounce, Syrup of Buck-thorn and Elixir
 “ Proprietatis, each two Drams. — Drink
 “ Posset-drink, or thin Gruel, between Mo-
 “ tions. — Taking this once or twice a
 “ Week, will lessen the Gouty Matter, and
 “ break the Force of the Fits.”

II. *Prescription to Ease the* GOUT.

“ Take Opium one Ounce, Salt-Petre and
 “ Tartar vitriolated, each four Ounces, Ipo-
 “ cacuana one Ounce, Liquorish one Ounce.
 Put

" Put the Salt-Petre and Tartar into a red-
 " hot Mortar, stirring them with a Spoon
 " till they have done flaming. — Then
 " powder them very fine, after that slice
 " in your Opium ; grind these to a Powder,
 " and then mix the other Powders with these.
 " Dose from forty to sixty or seventy Grains
 " in a Glas of White-wine Posset, going to
 " Bed. — Covering up warm, and drinking
 " a Quart or three Pints of the Posset-drink
 " while sweating."

In two or three Hours, at farthest, the Pa-
 tient will be perfectly free from Pain ; and
 though before not able to put one Foot to
 the Ground, 'tis very much if he cannot walk
 the next Day. When it is taken, keep your
 Bed till next Day Noon. This Remedy
 may be taken once a Week, or once a Month.

Mynsicht's Elixir of Vitriol, taken often in
 large Quantities, most certainly destroys Gouty
 Matter, yet for some Time it may cause Pain ;
 but taken in its due Latitude, if Water will
 quench Fire, it must in the End have its de-
 sired Effect.

N. B. *We cannot help dissenting from the*
Doctor's Opinion, that Sweating will cure the
Gout ; but that Sweating will ease the Pain,
we have many Instances. Nor is every one
who is subject to the Gout, troubled with Chalk-
Stones in their Joints ; but I much wonder
that he has not taken notice of this Distemper
attacking

attacking the Nobler Parts, viz. the Head and the Stomach, for there it is most dangerous. Blisters have done well, when it has attack'd the Head; and Tansey boil'd in a Pint of strong Mountain, has given immediate Ease, to be drunk as warm as the Patient can bear it.

The famous Quieting Char'n, sold some Years since for Five Guineas, is no more than Stone-Brimstone, worn in a warm Pocket as near the Body as possible, and it has been thought to give Ease to this tormenting Disemper.

DROPSY, *called* HYDROPS.

THERE are three Sorts of Dropsies; the most common and most fatal, is the Ascites. This Distemper is often many Years contracting; in some near twenty Years, according to the best Judgment that can be made. One or two Instances may make this clear.

Mr. William Staunton of Hampton, near Hampton-Court, formerly a Chancery Clerk of Furnival's-Inn, was for twenty Years afflicted with a violent Asthma, attended with a Species of the Dropsy. — His Distemper reduced him to that Weakness, and made him so corpulent and unweildly, that he was not able to turn in his Bed, nor
lie

lie but on one Side, in so much that the Flesh was worn off the Hip and Shoulder, and it was expected a Mortification would ensue.

— In this Condition Mrs. Stauton asked, If I conceived any Hopes of him? I answered, there was but little Room for Hope; yet if she pleased to try the Force of the Medicine I should prescribe, she might be assured there was no Danger in it,

He took it every Night and Morning, as I usually give it. — He has told me since, that it constantly brought away from a Gallon to five Quarts of Water. — Taking this daily, it must be supposed he was soon freed from his Waters.

N. B. The Doctor adds, that he gave him a Medicine Night and Morning, which constantly brought away a Gallon, or five Quarts of Water; and by his taking this daily, it soon freed him from his Waters, and freed him from his Asthma, tho' he was in his Sixty-seventh Year of his Age. The Doctor has kept this Receipt to himself; but by way of Note I imagin them either done by Oyl of Juniper, as The Principal, or else by an Infusion of Juniper-Berries, roasted like Coffee, and made into a Liquor like Coffee, which has cured great Numbers.

He has been clear of his Asthma ever since, and enjoys a better State of Health than he has done for twenty Years past. This was in the Sixty-seventh Year of his Age, yet he
has

has at present as florid a Complexion as any Man of Twenty.

I conclude that he had a Collection of Waters in his Breast, which caused the Asthma.

I had another Patient, who had a White-Swelling, as the Surgeons call it, in both Knees. He came to Town, and applied himself to Mr. *Bocheer* ; who, like an honest Man, did little to him, but advised him to go to *Bath* ; which he did for near twenty Years, as the Gentleman told me. But in the End this appeared to be an Ascites. I purged off the Waters, and the Swellings totally disappeared. He told me he had not had so good a Command of his Legs for twenty Years past.

Many Instances of the like Nature I could produce ; but I take these two to be sufficient for my present Purpose.

Hence it is evident what slow Paces this Distemper many times makes.

Some Nicety will be required to give such a Description of this Disease, as to make it known in its Approaches. 'Tis easily prevented, though very difficult to be cured when it comes to an Height.

This Distemper begins with a Thirst, which insensibly grows on the Patient. The Inside of the Hands grows dry with a more than common Hardness, and the Patient is attended with an unusual Heat. All the Glands of Secretion begin to fall short of performing their due Functions, till at last Transpiration ceases.

ceases. The Urine decreases much in Quantity, and is often high-coloured. An Inability to Motion increases as the Body fills with great Shortness of Breath, and Loss of Appetite.

These are the several Symptoms of an approaching Dropsy, which usually shews itself first in the Legs. This Distemper may be coming on several Years, as has been above noted; and for want of a due Examination of the Patient, it has been too often taken for some other Disease, which has proved fatal to many People.

To describe a confirmed Ascites, is no more than to set the foregoing in a clear Light.

The Thirst is more intense, Urine less in Quantity, higher coloured, coming near to the Water made in a Jaundice; Shortness of Breath to that Degree, that there is no lying down in Bed; and Inability to all Motion, a total Loss of Appetite, loose Stools, frequent, but in small Quantities. The Legs, Thighs, and all Parts of the Body are full of Water; which, with the Addition of a Symptomatical Jaundice, make up the frightful and merciless Retinue that attend this great Evil.

After all, I shall venture to say, That let me but come to People as early in this Distemper as they generally apply for Relief from other Physicians, and it shall be cured with as much Certainty, as any other Gentleman may cure a Distemper he thinks himself

self most Master of. — I am surprized that the Paracentesis *, or Tap, should be so frequently used in this fatal Disease. — I should be glad to know if one in five Hundred has been cured by it. — It rather confirms the Disease, and often renders it incurable, while the poor Patient's Life is protracted in Misery and Despair; so that it may well be said,

*Graviora morbis patimur Remedia,
Nec vita tanti est, vivere ut possis, mori.*

*Such Aids new Fuel to your Pain supply;
Who values Life, if he must hourly die?*

The TYMPANY, Tympanites.

A NOTHER Species of Dropsy, to which the Fair Sex are only liable, proceeds from their frequent Miscarriages and hard Labours: Besides, as they are of a much finer Texture of Body than Men,

* The Dr. here is much in the Right to avoid the Paracentesis, or Tap; for when it once comes to that, the Patient is in great Danger; but begin early in taking such Medicines as are mentioned before in the other Species of Dropsies.

they

they are more subject to the Passions of the Mind, which have often been the Cause of this Distemper.

This is part Wind, part Water, swelling the Abdomen, or Belly only. The Muscles waste so in this Disease, that the Patient becomes a meer Skeleton with Loss of Appetite : Thirst, but in a more remiss Degree than in the Ascites ; Urine in small Quantities, but often of a healthy Colour.— This may be cured pretty much in the same Way with an Ascites *.

ANASARCA.

THIS is another Species of Dropsy, somewhat differing from the Ascites and Tympany. The Symptoms are vastly more unsettled : The Swellings in the two former are fixed ; in this they very often shift, and for the most part affect only the Muscles. As for Example : The Patient shall swell on one Side of the Body, and in a short Time the Tumor shall quit that Part, and appear on the other Side of the Body ; and

* But see the Doctor's Method of Cure under that Species of Dropsies call'd the *Anasarca*.

in like Manner shift from one Thigh, Leg, or Arm, to the other.

This Disease is not so common as the Ascites, or Tympany, and is much easier cured. Yet Mr. Towne, one of the King's Gardiners, died of it under Dr. Radcliffe's Care. — A Gentleman carried me to that unfortunate Man, but the Doctor was so confident of saving him by the wonderful Panacæa Blisters, that I was not listened to. The Blisters, instead of proving Remedies, only gave the Patient Pain, without affording him any Help; so that in a short Time after he died.

The Cure of this Distemper.

“ Take Steel prepared with Sulphur and
 “ crude Antimony, each one Ounce, Dia-
 “ gridium four Ounces: Make a fine Pow-
 “ der of these; then add as much of any Sy-
 “ rup as will make a soft Electuary. —
 “ Take a large Spoonful at Night going to
 “ Bed, and another in the Morning, stirring
 “ it well from the Bottom, increasing or les-
 “ sening the Dose as you see Occasion. —
 “ You must not drink during the Opera-
 “ tion of this Physick, as in other Purges;
 “ for if you pour in too much Liquor, it
 “ will destroy the End of purging, and
 “ you will find yourself just where you
 “ were.”

When

When your Waters are off, you may repeat your Purge one in four or five Days ; thence once a Week, and so on, to once a Fortnight, and once a Month, till your Blood has recovered its due Tone.

You must avoid all Spoon-Meats, Fruits, and Garden-stuff, of what Kind soever. — And be sure not to exceed a Pint and a half of Liquor in twenty-four Hours ; for if you drink, your Thirst will never abate. This is a certain Remedy.

This Method will serve either in a Tympany as well as the Anasarca.

DIABATES.

THIS is a very fatal Disease, but rarely seen ; yet in one Day I was called to two Patients that were afflicted with it. — *Riverus* says, he never saw more than one Person labouring under this Distemper in all his Practice.

It arises from breaking the Compages, or Tenor of the Blood.

The Descriptions follow : 'Tis attended with a small Fever, loss of Appetite, intense Thirst, a great Dejection of the animal Spirits, profuse Quantities of Urine of a Violet Scent, with a thin oily Substance swimming

on

on the Surface of it. When all these Symptoms meet, they constitute this Distemper.

The Sort of Water described is very common in what Physicians call Scorbutick Cafes. — Upon which, after the Learned Dr. *Wills* has made a very long Harangue about hot Scurvy and cold Scurvy, I must own my Capacity too weak to comprehend his Meaning; nor do I believe the Disease owed its Name to any Thing, but that when the Physicians met with a Distemper they knew little of, they called it a scurvy one.

One Mr. *Jonathan Keate*, some time after Surgeon to the Hospital at *King's Town* in *Jamaica*, was so far gone in a Diabetes, that he was not able to get out of his Cabin. — I was on Board with some Company, who told me the Surgeon of the Ship lay dangerously ill, and desired to see me. — I soon perceived his Distemper, and sent him from Shore what I thought proper. In three or four Days he came to *Port Royal*, to return Thanks for the great Service I had done him. He did, as we say, *pancratice valere*, and so continued. — This is thirty Years since. — About six Years since, I saw him in Town; he lodged in *St. Martin's-Lane*, and was then just come from *Barcelona*.

I shall only give one Instance more: A Person, recommended to me by his Grace the late Duke of *Richmond*, was so weak in this Distemper, that he could hardly stand, — I order'd him ten Days after to meet me

me at the Duke's, which he accordingly did; and gave his Grace thanks for being perfectly recovered. He lived on *Tower-Hill*, and, if I mistake not, was an *House-Carpenter*; but I have forgot his Name.

There needs nothing more to be done for the Cure of this Disease, which has hitherto puzzled Physicians in all Ages, than to drink a Quarter of a Pint of *Allom Posset-drink*, first and last, made as strong as your Stomach will bear it.—This I have experienc'd for thirty-five Years, and do not remember that it ever failed.

N. B. The Doctor, in this Prescription, takes the shortest Method of Cure, and very justly deserves our Praises; but 'tis to be observ'd, that if you make your Allom-Posset too strong, 'twill prove a powerful Emetic.

CONSUMPTION, or PHTISIS.

THOUGH this is a Chronicle Disease, it is also inflammatory; and I know of no other Chronicle Distemper that is so.

It begins with a violent Cough, and is always attended with an inflamed Mass of Blood, except in convulsive Cases; and as the

the Lungs are all Bronchia, or little *Air-Bladders* of the *Aspera Arteria*, when we inspire the inflamed Part, of what we see on the Top of the Blood, which the Physicians term *Pleuritical*, is strained from the Mass, which being left in those *Air-Bladders*, occasions a great Shortness of Breath, till by violent Coughing, or frequent Successions of the Lungs, it is brought off.— If this Matter continues, it inflames the Lungs, till at last they are impostumated; and then the Patient's Case becomes desperate.

This Disease commonly proceeds from Cold; which encreasing, the Patient complains first of a great Soreness in his Breast, Difficulty of Breathing, loss of Appetite, a great Heat and Dryness in the Palms of his Hands, with frequent and sudden Flushings in the Face; according to that of *Hippocrates Rubor pertinax & saturatus in Genis pulmonem indicat inflammatum.*

As this Disease gathers Power, colliquating Sweats come on towards Morning; then a *Diarrhæa*, or Looseness; the Fingers Ends are swelled, and a few Days before Death, the Legs swell, which is the last Symptom.

The good Dr. *Sydenham* wonderfully commends Riding in this Distemper; and he says,
 “ *Hoc sanctè assero, quod neque Mercurius in*
 “ *Lue Venerea neque Cortex Peruvianus in in-*
 “ *termittentibus efficaciores extent quam in*
 “ *Phtisit curanda exercitium jam laudatum.—*

“ Speaking of Riding, *Modo æger curet ut*
 “ *liutea-*

“ *linſamina leſti ſint probe areſceta; atque
 “ etiam ut ſatis longa Itinera emetiatur.”*

But, with Deference to my old Friend's Judgment, I have known frequent Bleeding in ſmall Quantities do more good than Riding. I ſhall ſet down one Caſe, of which any Perſon may ſatisfy himſelf.

A Nephew of Sir George Caſwell's, whoſe Lungs were moſt apparently impoſtumated from the corrupt and ſœtid Matter that proceeded from them, had thoſe colliquating Sweats, with a Diarrhœa, or Loofeneſs, and brought up large Quantities of Blood every Day, almoſt equal to a Vomica Pulmonum.

His Muſcles were almoſt entirely waſted; and ſo very weak, that he could hardly walk alone. I order'd him to bleed every other Day—— He ſoon viſibly grew better.—— I ſent him to the Cold Bath, which he uſed to very great Advantage; ſo that he ſoon grew healthy and ſtrong, and fuller of Fleſh than ever.

When Mr. Pettit blooded him, he would often ſay, he could not poſſibly live four and twenty Hours.

As this is an inflammatory Diſeaſe, all Methods of Cure ought to be avoided, except ſuch as abate the Inflammation; which, I may venture to ſay, is uſually increaſed by the vaſt Quantities of Oils and Syrops preſcribed: And this is the chief Reaſon that Phyſicians have

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had

had so little Success in Consumptions. They allow the Patient to use a strengthening Diet, and indulge him too much with Wine, Gravies, and the like, contrary to a known Maxim in Physick.—— *Impura corpora quo plus nutries, eo magis lædes.*

Another Cause of Consumptions is from an Empyema; which is an Imposthumation on the Pleura; as when Pleurifies, or Peripneumonies are not taken off by Bleeding; for as long as any poignant, or shooting Pains remain, there is an infallible Indication for Bleeding. 'Twas said, the Lord *Sunderland* could not die for want of Bleeding, having lost seventy Ounces: Whereas my next door Neighbour had a Servant seized with a Pleurisy, who lost two Hundred and sixty Ounces of Blood before his Pain left him; and the Man since enjoys a perfect State of Health.

One of my Patients was so far gone in a Consumption, that he was not able to stand alone. I advised him by all Means to lose six Ounces of Blood every Day for a Fortnight, then every other Day, and then every third Day, and fifth Day for the same Time. This was in the Month of *November*; the *March* following, he rode from *Evesham* to *Bristol*, in one Day, which is forty seven long Miles, to give me Thanks for his Recovery. — He lived many Years after. His Relations all died in Consumptions. This was the first Experiment I made of Bleeding in this Disease;

sease ; and I have cured many since by this Method of Bleeding.

N. B. *I think if the Doctor had used Cupping between Whiles, it would have done much better.*

Another Patient was so very weak in a Consumption, that they entirely despaired of his Life. He was blooded at least fifty Times ; and in a short Time recover'd so, that he enjoys a better State of Health than ever he did before.

A Receipt to help the Lungs.

“ Take Aniseeds fine powdered, Saffron
 “ of Steel, each half an Ounce, made into
 “ Pills, with *Lucatella's* Balsam ; take five of
 “ these every Morning, and at Five a-Clock
 “ in the Afternoon, drinking a large Draught
 “ of Water acidulated with *Mynsicht's* Elixir
 “ of Vitriol.—— After each Dose, Riding
 “ is of singular Use, and Cold-Bathing :
 “ but above all, frequent Bleeding in small
 “ Quantities : For, as is before observed,
 “ whatever keeps the Lungs cool, is the only
 “ Way to cure Consumptions ; and I have
 “ of late experienc'd, that crude Mercury is
 “ the most beneficial Thing for the Lungs,
 “ taking one Ounce every Morning.”

N. B. *The Doct̃or is, in every one of these Particulars, very right in his Judgment, as we have experienc'd. The Use of the crude Mercury, as he prescribes it, is a sovereign Medicine.*

ASTHMA.

OF this there are two Species; the one convulsive, the other proceeding from a foul Mass of Blood.

These are not hard to be distinguish'd: The Convulsive generally has its Paroxysms, or Fits; and though you may Cough with greater Violence, and find a much greater Difficulty of Breathing, though you spit only a frothy Substance, yet when the Paroxysm is over, the Patient finds not much Disorder.

A Remedy for the Asthma.

“ Take Castor one Dram, Salt of Steel
 “ half a Dram, made into very small Pills,
 “ with Extract of Rue: These you may take
 “ every

“ every Hour ’till the Convulsion is abated,
 “ drinking three Spoonfuls of the following
 “ Julep after each Dose.— Take of Black-
 “ cherry, and Penny-royal Water, each an
 “ Ounce ; of Rue and compound Briony-
 “ Waters, each four Ounces, with a small
 “ Quantity of Sugar, made into a Julep.—
 “ or a Toad dried and powder’d, made into
 “ Pills, and taken as above, is a most ex-
 “ cellent Remedy, notwithstanding the com-
 “ mon Opinion of the great Poison there is
 “ in a Toad ; but that is all a false No-
 “ tion.”

In a sanguinary Asthma, or what proceeds
 from a foul Mass of Blood, the Patient is
 seldom free ; though at some Times much
 better than others. As when the Winds are
 Easterly, the Patient soon finds a sensible Al-
 teration for the Worse.— Nay, I have been
 told by those that keep their Beds, that they
 have been sensible in a few Minutes, when
 the Wind has shifted to the East, they cough
 and spit a digested Matter.

This Disease rarely seizes People before they
 are of an advanced Age ; which is the Rea-
 son, it does not cause Consumptions ; for the
 Parenchyma, or Substance of the Lungs, is
 then grown so very hard, that it rarely ad-
 mits of Putrefaction. — The Cure of this
 last Asthma does not much vary from that in
 Consumptions.

When it proceeds from a foul Mass of Blood, it ought to be treated as in a Consumption; only purge once or twice a Week, with the Purge set down in the Gout.

JAUNDICE, *or* ICTERUS.

THIS is very visible from the Yellowness of the Eyes and Skin, black Urine, and white Stools, accompanied with great Sickness and Faintings, but little Pain. If the Excrements are not White, it may be feared, the Case is complicated, and it proves a symptomatical Jaundice; which is never to be cured by Ictericks, or such Medicines as are commonly used in the Jaundice.

This Disease proceeds from an Obstruction of the Ductus Coledochus, which leads from the Gall to the Intestine Duodenum; the Bile not passing there, leaves the Ordure white, which otherwise takes its Colour from it; but mixing with the Blood, tinctures the Skin; as the Hair on the Head, or Body, takes its Dye from the Fluids.

Paracelsus, in his Treatise *De Signatura Rerum*, very much commends the inner Bark of Barberries, Turmerick, Rheubarb, and all
Plants

Plants of a yellow Cast, in the Cure of this Disease. But they are too weak, as has been sufficiently experienc'd long since.—— He likewise commends the Arbor Tremula in Agues; the Pulmonaria Maculosa in Consumptions; Trachelium in sore Throats, and Quinseys; and so goes on.—— I mention this, to shew on what weak Foundations we often venture our Lives.

This Disease commonly Ends in some violent Hæmorrhage; either by Urine, Stool, or a Vomica Pulmonum, which soon terminates in Death.—— All this may be imputed to that Alkali Bile, which tears the very Arteries in Pieces, and renders the Patient incurable.

“ Only take eight Grains of Turbith Mineral, at Four or Five in the Afternoon,
 “ drinking thin Gruel, or Posset-drink, between Motions.—— After four or Five
 “ Days, repeat the Turbith as above.——
 “ In the intermediate Days take half a large
 “ Spoonful of *Mynsicht's* Elixir of Vitriol, in
 “ half a Pint of Spring Water, three Times
 “ a Day.—— This cures any original Jaundice I ever met with.”

At the Bath, I have seen Gentlemen so far gone in this Disease, that their Faces have been of an exact Lemon-Colour.—— I have been much concerned, to think how small a Progress has been made in the Art of Healing.

N. B. *As to what the Doctor prescribes for this Distemper, I think much too harsh: There is a much easier and certain Way of curing the Distemper; for the Turbith Mineral shocks the Body too much. 'Tis in my Opinion too violent a Vomit.*

The Method I take, which has never yet fail'd, is the use of Chalybate Tartar, well guarded with Spices, and made into an Eleſtuary with any proper Syrup, to be taken the Quantity of a Nutmeg three Times a Day. But before you use this, take a Dose of the Ipecacubana, to wash your Bowels. — 'Tis a certain and speedy Cure. Indeed, in the Black Jaundice the Turbith Mineral may be of use.

STONE, or Nephritis.

THE Stone is an exquisite Pain on the Ureters, or Neck of the Bladder. — And is caused by a cold Stomach, hot Reins, and ill Digestion; which sends Crudities into the Blood by the Lacteals. These Crudities pass to the Kidneys by the Emulgent Arteries; and not being so readily received by the Emulgent Veins, make Lodgment in the Pelvis, or Cavity of the Kidneys, where, by their
Heat

Heat, they soon petrify: And thus Gravel is formed; but never in the Bladder, as some conceive. This Gravel, or small Stones, entering the Ureters, long and narrow Passages of exquisite Sense, cause great Pains, with violent Vomitings; and the same again, when they enter the Neck of the Bladder and Urethra.—The Patient frequently complaining of Pains in his Thigh, which I take to proceed from the Muscle *Psoas*, which reaches from the Reins thither.

All the Relief we can afford, is to dilate and lubricate the Urinal Passages, that the Stone or Gravel may pass with less Difficulty.

If any of the small Gravel should accidentally adhere to any Part of the Bladder, it like a Snow-ball collects the finer Part of the Sand, till, by its Weight, it falls from its Cystis on the Neck of the Bladder; and then nothing is to be done but Lithotomy, or Cutting.

This brings melancholy Reflections on the unhappy Patient, since all the Endeavours of Physicians, Quacks, and Empericks, to find out a Cure, have proved ineffectual. — Many Trials have been made to find out a Dissolvent for the Stone; and such have been found out as will break the Stone, being laid in your Hand. — But as nothing but an excrementitious Serum enters the Bladder, the Powers of every Medicine must be vastly

weakened, before they reach the Seat of the Distemper.

There is little to be done to ease the Patient in the Fits, or Paroxysms, but to use such Medicines as lubricate, and open the Passages; by which Means the Stone or Gravel will pass more easily.—As Balsam of Capivy, taking a large Spoonful in any Vehicle, whether Wine or Water. I know it is a common Method, to give strong Diureticks in such Cases.—Now, the Coats of the Ureters being nervous, by such Irritations contract themselves and hold the Stone more closely.—Whereas the Weight of the Urine is sufficient to carry the Stone before it, if the Passages were sufficiently dilated.—I prescribe the inmost Coat of the Gizzards of Pidgeons finely powder'd, to be taken Night and Morning, one Scruple in a Glass of White-wine. But you may please to try one Ounce of Quick-silver every Morning for one Month. I have known this do Wonders. Clysters often afford some Relief; as Turpentine opened with the Yolk of an Egg, and Urine added to it.

“ Take Peach-Leaves, in their Perfection,
 “ and dry them in the Sun, then break them
 “ pretty small, and use them as Tea; but only
 “ half the Quantity.”

I have known it to do very extraordinary Things in the Gravel, and equally beneficial to Gouty Persons.

N. B.

N. B. *The Doctor argues with good Judgment in this Case: For, when a Stone is once confirm'd, it is impossible to dissolve it in the Bladder, notwithstanding the many plausible Pretences of the Empyricks. And when this is the Case, all the Ease the Patient can have, is by the Use of the Opiates, and the only Cure is by Lithotomy.*

PALSEY, or Paralysis.

I Am now entering on nervous Diseases: As to that Part of them which compose the several Species of Palsey: It will be Matter of no great Difficulty to distinguish, and explain them. Nevertheless, I am sensible, as I launch farther into this Field, and treat of nervous Diseases at large, there will be great Nicety required to give their several Descriptions; and make them so plain, that one may not be taken for the other; or even, that they may not be taken for acute Cases, which may prove of the worst Consequence to the Patient.

H E M I.

HEMIPLEGIE, or Hemiplexia.

THIS Species of the Palsey affects but one Side, which is owing to the doubling of the *Dura Mater*, called the *Falx*, by which the Brain is divided; so that, unless in extraordinary Cases, the Paralysis is seldom met with. The great Author of Nature has afforded us Duplicates in almost every Particular; so that in case one becomes useless, or lost, yet the other in a great Measure supplies the Defect. Thus we have two Eyes, two Lobes of the Lungs, two Kidneys, two Testicles; so that one Part remaining, Vision, Respiration, Secretion, and Generation, are all performed. The *Mahometan* Women, in the greatest Part of *Asia*, destroy one Testicle: No doubt they find their Account in it; because the Males make their Addresses more frequently when there is a less Expence of Spirits at each Evacuation.

The Hemiplegie and Paralysis are both cured by such Medicines as open the Obstructions of the Nerves; then the Animal Spirits recover a free Passage, and all Sensation returns.

In recent Cases, this Distemper is soon cured.

I healed a Gentlewoman who was seized with this Hemiplegie, falling down with an entire Loss of Sense and Motion on one Side, in the 70th Year of her Age, and by what I order'd her, she was perfectly well in ten Days, and so continued many Years after.

Many Instances of the like Nature I could produce, but they are at some Distance from London.

Method of Cure.

“ In this Case I blister the Arm, the Leg,
 “ and the Thigh of the Side affected. I
 “ give Mercurius Dulcis, and Cinnabar of
 “ Antimony, each eight or ten Grains, which
 “ I repeat every four or five Days. The in-
 “ termediate Days take Conserve of Roman
 “ Wormwood, Conserve of the outward
 “ Rinds of Seville Oranges, each one Ounce;
 “ Angelica, Nutmegs, and Ginger candied,
 “ each half an Ounce; Powder of Wake-
 “ Robin three Drams, made into an Electu-
 “ ary with Syrup of Citron: Take the Quan-
 “ tity of a large Nutmeg in the Morning;
 “ and at five of the Clock in the Afternoon;
 “ drinking six Spoonfuls of the following
 “ Tincture after.”

“ Take

“ Take the Roots of Master-wort, Ele-
 “ campane, Angelica, each one Ounce ;
 “ Leaves of Common Wormwood, Hore-
 “ hound, Germander, each one Handful ;
 “ Tops of Centaury and St. John's-Wort,
 “ each half an Handful ; Juniper-berries
 “ two Ounces ; the Rinds of nine Seville
 “ Oranges ; infuse these in three Quarts of
 “ White-wine, straining it off as you use it.
 “ The same Method cures both Kinds of
 “ Palsey.

N. B. *The Method the Doctor prescribes for
 the Cure of this Distemper, is very much to the
 Purpose, and cannot fail of Success.*

St. VITUS's-Dance, or Cho- rea Sancti Viti.

THIS is a Palsey of a more remiss Kind
 than the forementioned : I never knew
 any but young Persons seized with it. If it
 begins in the Arm, it soon affects the Leg
 on the same Side ; and so *vice versa*. It ne-
 ver wears off without proper Means.

This admits of the same Method of Cure
 as the Palsey.

There

There is another Species of the Palsey, known by the Name of the *Shaking-Palsey*: 'Tis commonly the Effect of Old Age, Intemperance, or a *Malum Stamen Vitæ*: It ever proceeds from a Deficiency of Animal Spirits.

A P O P L E X Y.

THIS, of all others, deserves to have a Place amongst the acute Diseases. But, as I am going to describe those of the Head, this Distemper, so remarkable, and so fatal, cannot be omitted.

Whatever affects the Head, must be either inflammatory, convulsive, or accidental; as from Contusions, Bruises, and the like.

The Patient in an Apoplexy falls suddenly to the Ground, deprived of all Sensation and Motion,

Some Physicians place this Distemper in the Center of the Brain; but that, with Submission, can hardly account for the Effect it produces: Upon better Consideration, it will appear, that both Brains must be affected. That the Cerebrum, or great Brain is so, appears from the Abolition of Sense and Motion.

tion. That the Cerebellum, or little Brain, receives its Stroke likewise, is evident from the great Difficulty of Breathing the Patient labours under in this Disease: It being very justly allowed, that this Brain is the Cause of all involuntary Motions, of which Breathing must be one. 'Tis not easy to conceive that this Distemper is so common, as is pretended, when in more than forty-seven Years Practice, I have met with no more than two.

Very often the Denomination of this Disease is given to Epilepsies, and many Times to high Hypochondriacal Effects.

There are two Causes of Apoplexies: Blood extravasated in the cortical Part of the Brain; or Convulsions, that immediately obstruct the Animal Spirits.

The first of these is incurable, it being impossible to draw the extravasated Blood off; the latter, by proper Remedies, has been often removed, and the Patient cured.

Method of Cure.

“ High Bleeding may be of Use. Take
 “ of Mercurius Dulcis, Cinnabar of Anti-
 “ mony, each one Scruple, made into a Bo-
 “ lus with Conserve of Hips. Give such
 “ Things as cause Sneezing; as the Root of
 “ Hellebore, or the Leaves of Asarabacca
 “ powder'd.

“ powder’d. Bruise Garlick, which you may
 “ apply to the Hand, Wrists, and Soles of the
 “ Feet. Likewise give the Julep described
 “ in the Convulsive Asthma, making it
 “ very strong with Spirit of Sal Armo-
 “ niac.”

N. B. *What the Doctor has here prescribed, is well known to be of sovereign Efficacy. And when the Fit is over, avoid all Sorts of spirituous Liquors, and keep your Body warm, but your Legs and Feet especially.*

FALLING-SICKNESS, or Epilepsy.

THIS Distemper must be convulsive, it being impossible for any inflammatory Disease to seize the Patient so surprizingly; for he would complain of Vertigoes, or great Pains in the Head, before the Paroxysm. Whereas it gives its Stroke without any previous Symptom, much like an Apoplexy, and is too often taken for that Distemper, as I have before observed. This affects likewise both Brains; which is visible from its taking away all Sense and Motion, and is attended with

with a *Dispnoea*, or Difficulty of Breathing, yet not so great as in Apoplexies.

It plainly differs from other convulsive Diseases; since in this Case the Patient always falls on his Back, and is thrown down with great Violence, foaming much at the Mouth.

'Tis cured by proper Neuroticks; little differing from the Methods of Cure in other Nervous Cases.

During the Paroxysm, what is prescribed in the Apoplexy, is not amiss, Bleeding excepted. But to prevent Returns, take as prescribed in the Convulsive Asthma. All Convulsions proceeding pretty much from the same Cause, which we call an Ataxie, or irregular Motion of the Animal Spirits.

N. B. *Besides what the Doctor prescribes in this Case, there is a Medicine which I have frequently given with good Success, which is Mistletoe dried and powder'd, about a Scruple the Dose, in a Glass of Hysterick Water three Times a Day.*

HYPOCONDRIACAL *and* HYSTERICAL DISEASES.

HERE are two different Names for the same Distemper; nor can they be distinguish'd otherwise than thus: What we call Hypo-

Hypocondriacal in Men, we term Hyfterical in Women. I fhall enter only on Hyfterical Effects, becaufe they are more common, and more vifible in the finer Sex.

There is no Difafe incident to Human Bodies but thefe Hyftericifms will counterfeit fo exactly, that without the greateft Caution, the Phyfician muft be deceived.

As when it feizes the Head, it caufes violent Pains, Vertigoes, ftrong Convulfions, with Depravation of Senfe; when it affects the Eyes, with Lofs of Sight for the Prefent, great Quantities of pure Waters iffuing from them.

When the Heart, Palpitations.

When the Lungs, Succuffions, or Coughing; in fome much refembling the Barking of a Dog.

When the Gullet, or Exphagus, Suffocation, with a great Swelling rifing up to the Throat.

When the Side, a Pleurify.

When the Stomach, Sicknefs, Pain and Vomiting.

When the Inteftines, the Cholick, often accompanied with a Diarrhæe, or Loofnefs.

When the Kidneys, and Neck of the Bladder, it many Times caufes a total Suppreffion of the Urine, with Pains fo like thofe caufed by the Gravel, or a Stone; that 'tis impoffible, *nifi a juvantibus & lædentibus*, to diftinguifh one from the other.

When

When the Womb, all Distempers appear that are incident to it; all the Muscles and Joints are affected with Swellings, followed with torturing Pains without Inflammation.

Neither are the Teeth or Nails free: The Skin shall be often affected, becoming hot and dry, as in a burning Fever.

The Scorbiculum Cordis, or Pit of the Stomach, is very often much disordered with Pains, Tremblings, and Sinkings, which often cause sudden Motions to make Urine; which is not only larger in Quantity than usual, but pale, and clear as Water from a Fountain.

The Reason why the Pit of the Stomach is so generally affected, is, because there is a Plexus, or Net of Nerves meeting there; which is a plain Indication that all the several Symptoms above-mentioned, are Nervous.

I proceed to enquire into the Cause of so great a Variety of Symptoms, which is from an Ataxie, as we call it, or an irregular Motion of the Animal Spirits, which proceed from a Weakness of them; so that the least Noise, Surprize, Trouble, Anger, or any other Passion of the Mind, immediately brings on the greatest Disorders and Confusions, and makes the Patient presently blown up with Wind in almost every Part.

This Disease, which has the several Appearances of almost all acute Diseases, without

out

out Matter or Corruption of the Fluids, makes me wonder that Physicians should begin with Bleeding, Vomiting, Purgings, and Blistering; and after that have Recourse to Fontanels or Issues; then Steel, Bitters, Opiates, and the like; all directly contrary to the Practice before set down. Steel in Substance is very pernicious to human Bodies; Bitters rarely have their desired Effects: Opiates only palliate, and at the same Time give deeper Root to the Disease. The last Remedies prescribed are *Bath Waters*, which are really Good to repair decayed Spirits.

The only Help which can be administered in this Disorder, is to fortify the Animal Spirits, and strengthen the Genus Nervosum: Which is done by proper Neuroticks, Depilatives, and such as strengthen the Stomach, and help Digestion: In all these there are no Evacuations; and yet it may be affirmed, these are proper Remedies in the above-mentioned Distemper.

I shall be very particular in my Account of every Thing that I ever found was of any Relief, or of any Use in these Cases; which often proceeding from Disorders of the Womb: It is of very great Import to see that Nature does her Part; that her Returns are Regular, neither abounding, nor too sparing; either of which, often cause Barrenness. In the first use this Method.

“ Bleed

“ Bleed twelve Ounces from the Arm,
 “ three or four Days before the Return of
 “ Nature is expected. Take large Quanti-
 “ ties of *Mynsicht's* Elixir of Vitriol, half a
 “ large Spoonful in half a Pint of Spring
 “ Water, three or four times a Day ; or of
 “ *Eaton's* Styptick. Take of the Plaister De
 “ Minio, and the Rupture-Plaister, each a
 “ like Quantity ; two or three Drams of the
 “ Loadstone, finely powdered : Put this to
 “ the Reins of the Back, avoiding all Meats
 “ or Drinks that any way heat or inflame
 “ the Blood. ”

Where Nature is wanting, use the follow-
 ing Receipt :

“ Take Salt of Steel one Ounce, Extract
 “ of Rue ; make these into Pills : Take one
 “ going to Bed, and another in the Morn-
 “ ing : So increase, till you take five Pills
 “ Night and Morning, drinking three or
 “ four Spoonfuls of the Julep prescribed in
 “ the Convulsive Asthma ; or take *Myn-
 “ sicht's* Tincture of Steel, and Elixir Pro-
 “ prietatis, each a like Quantity. Of this
 “ you may take a large Spoonful in half a
 “ Pint of Spring Water, first in the Morn-
 “ ing, and at Five in the Afternoon, for a
 “ Month : Wear a Galbanum Plaister to your
 “ Navel. The Pills and Juleps in the Con-
 “ vulsive Asthma, taken and repeated every
 “ two or three Hours, when the Symptoms
 “ are at the highest, soon put a Stop to them.

The

“ The *Indians* at the *Molucco* Island, and the
 “ Ladies at *Smyrna*, often take Quick-silver,
 “ as a Remedy against Barrenness. An Ounce
 “ may be taken once a Day for a Month or
 “ two. ”

N. B. *The Doctor argues with a great deal of Judgment on this Distemper, and his Prescriptions are no less to the Purpose, containing every Thing that is proper to strengthen the Nerves.*

GREEN-SICKNESS, or Chlorosis.

THIS Disease is incident to the Female Sex only ; and that for the most part in the Time of their Virginitv. This formerly appeared near the usual Time of the coming of the Menstrua : But since Mothers have been so foolishly desirous for nice Shapes for their Children, and in their tender Years, have laced them so very strait, they have not only brought this Distemper on more early, but caused great Crookedness and Deformity of Body. To go further ; it so depraves the Juices of the Stomach, that the true Appetitions of Nature are wholly lost ; for what good Stomach would choose to eat Leather of old Trunks,

Trunks, Woollen or Linen Rags, Cork, Nutshells, and almost every Thing that a healthy Stomach would nauseate ?

This Distemper is attended with great Pains in the Stomach, Shortness of Breath, with an Aversion to all manner of Motion. For these Reasons, one would think all Mothers should become avowed Enemies to lacing their Daughters, 'till they are about twelve Years old, at soonest ; * and not to act as if that wise Being, who formed us so perfect in the Womb, was ignorant how to model and shape us while we are growing to Years of Maturity.

The ill Consequences that daily attend this Practice, might be thought sufficient to deter Parents from it.

Let Mankind take a View of barbarous Countries, as I have done ; contemplate those People, where God and Nature have only been : Observe in what Order and Delicacy their Muscles are placed ; how strong their Bodies ; how taper their Limbs. There are no full Shoulders, nor gummy Thighs or Legs, nor any Deformity : All Parts are conspicuous, since the Natives have no more Cloathing, than what our First Parents had during the short
Time

* The Doctor observes, that one of the best Remedies for this Distemper, is to give the Patient every Morning half an Ounce of Quick-silver, and continue the same Dose every Day for a Fortnight or three Weeks ; it opens all Obstructions, and makes a pure Balsom of the Blood.

Time of their Innocence. In some Places, they have not so much as a Fig-Leaf to conceal the Distinctions of either Sex.

The Reader must pardon a short Digression: Since Mention has been made of *Mothers*, I can't but observe, how religiously they restrain their Children from eating green Fruit, from a Notion that it breeds Worms : However singular I may appear in my Opinion, I hold the contrary to be true ; green Fruit being rather a great Destroyer of Vermin.

'Tis *Ripe Fruits* that breed Worms ; for it is manifest all animal Corruption turns to Vermin ; and the same in vegetable Putrefaction. Now ripe Fruits being the last Fermentation of Perfection, or rather the first of Putrefaction, the Vermicular Ovaria must be very pregnant ; which, when recived in a depraved Stomach, may prove as proper a Nidus for their Vivification, as the Corruption in which they are enveloped.

The most offensive and most dangerous of all Species of Vermin, are not visible to the naked Eye.

For some Years last past, I have not so easily assented to several received Opinions in natural Philosophy, as many others have done, who are ready *Jurare in verba alicujus Magistri*, but have thoroughly weighed and considered them so far as to be convinced, that they are, for the Generality, false : I shall set down one vulgar Error more.

'Tis a generally received Notion, nay, even amongst many Gentlemen of the Faculty, that Quicksilver is *Poison*: If such Persons are not ashamed of their being no better natural Philosophers, I have no Reason to be under Confusion of Face for them.

Yheir Opinion is a Sign they have travelled *far at home*.

Let them take a Trip to *Hungary*, and visit the Mines where the Quicksilver is dug; they may there see Slaves working entirely naked, to prevent the stealing this precious Jelly of Metals, as it may be called; yet every Day swallow so much that they buy a Choppin of Drink with it at Night.

Several Physicians have enquired of my Patients, To what End do I give it? Wherein can the Efficacy or Power of it consist? If they do not know, what follows may serve for Instruction.

First, it secures the Patient from all Vermicular Diseases; of which no Practitioner can be sufficiently apprised, that has not spent some Time in hot Climates.

Next, it opens all Obstructions, which are supposed to be another general Cause of Diseases.

Lastly, it makes a pure Balsam of the Blood beyond all other Things in the Creation. Otherwise, why cannot Venereal Ulcers be cured without it? We often see those Sores in a Salivation grow well without the Help of a Surgeon.

I desire

I desire to know, Why I am called the Quicksilver Doctor, by way of Derision? Pray do not you, Gentlemen Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecaries, prescribe it almost every Day of your Lives? I aver, you do. Only you disguise it; and I give it in such an open honest Manner, that my Patient cannot be deceived in taking it. Let me ask you, What is your Æthiops Mineral? Is it not Quicksilver ground to a black Powder, with Brimstone? and in as great Esteem with you as any of your Medicines? A very ingenious Physician says, This is like striking a Man with your Sword in the Scabbard; and were it possible to have found a worse Menstruum than Sulphur, I do not know whether it ought not even then to have been tried. Certainly this Medicine shews a more than common Virtue, which can thus powerfully exert it self, when bound down by so contrary a Quality.

A Patient of mine, a Gentleman of Reputation and Figure, was lately taking of Quicksilver by my Direction. He told me, one of the most eminent Physicians here in Town, said he was very sorry to hear that I had put him under a Course of Quicksilver, and affirmed it to be the most dangerous Medicine in the whole World; advising him by all means to leave it off. When this Gentleman at the same time was intimately acquainted with a Person, who had the same Indisposition with his own, and had Quicksilver prescribed him by this very

Doctor. He told me, besides, in what Manner he gave it ; which a Man who had studied Physick only a Month, would have thought no small Reflection upon his Judgment. I wish my Patient would have given me his Name, it should have been put down in Words at full Length, for the general Good of Mankind.

[*Read the Second Part of the Hospital Surgeon, of the Nature and Virtues of Quicksilver.*]

Bellost, the Author of this Book, calls it the Miracle of Nature, and the greatest Gift of God in the whole Materia Medica.

I appeal to the Reader, if such a Person as I lately mentioned, deserves the Title of Doctor. As for my Part, though I am but a poor Batchelor in Physick, I shall for ever scorn so mean, so dishonourable a Behaviour.

But concerning the Use of Quicksilver, see the following Paragraphs taken out of the Writings of two learned Physicians, which will convince the World that I am not single in the good Opinion I have of Quicksilver.

“ I have found the continual Use of Æthi-
 “ ops Mineralis to be not only safe, but al-
 “ ways effectual ; which is generally postpon-
 “ ed to the other Preparations of Mercury
 “ upon this Account only, because it is the
 “ most easily prepared of them all. Thus the
 “ Operation of Quicksilver holds universally
 “ the same ; which, however constant it may
 “ be, hinders not yet in the least, but that
 “ Quicksilver

“ Quicksilver may be endowed also with o-
 “ ther Properties ; for it not only opens ob-
 “ structed Vessels, but also as constantly blunts
 “ the Points of Acids.

Friend's Emenologia, Chap. xiv.

“ In Æthiops Mineral, and Cinnabar of
 “ Antimony, the Mercury is so bridled up
 “ by the Sulphur, that none of their sensible
 “ Operations and Appearances are felt, while
 “ they produce wonderful Changes in the
 “ Body. I cannot pass over Æthiops Mineral
 “ without pressing its more universal Use there-
 “ in, for ought I know, than it has yet had
 “ in common Practice. It is one of the most
 “ certain and universal Alteratives, if dosed
 “ sufficiently, and long enough persisting in,
 “ of all the Dispensatory. It radically extir-
 “ pates the Itch, Piles, scorbutic and scro-
 “ phulous Ulcers. All cutaneous Foulnesses :
 “ all Inflammations and Fluxions of the Eyes ;
 “ all internal Ulcers, Rheumatisms, Venere
 “ Swellings, sharp Humours in the Stomach
 “ and Guts ; and almost all Distempers aris-
 “ sing from sify Juices ; I say it cures these,
 “ if Art can do it. It may be given almost to
 “ half an Ounce a Day, especially with inter-
 “ spered Mercurial Purges, without Trouble,
 “ or any sensible Operation, and may be con-
 “ tinued a Twelvemonth, if one pleases. I
 “ have had frequent Occasion of trying the
 “ Æthiops in different Cases, since the first

“ Edition of my Treatise, and never with-
 “ out Success. Amongst others, I tried it up-
 “ on a Person of an exceeding gross corpul-
 “ lent Habit, who had passed the Meridian
 “ of Life, for a spreading, foul, scorbutic
 “ Ulcer, which had affected the whole Ankle,
 “ for more than a Span Length quite round,
 “ and was pretty deep in the Outside.
 “ He took three Drams, made up with Syrup
 “ of Lemons, twice a Day for four Months
 “ successively, and a gentle Mercurial Purge
 “ once in ten Days : This, with a low cool
 “ Diet, and proper Dressings, healed it quite
 “ up, when it was generally thought, scarce
 “ any Medicine, especially so easy a one,
 “ would ever finish such a Cure in such a
 “ Constitution. The Æthiops was taken
 “ without ever Disgust, Trouble, or Inter-
 “ ruption of Business ; and it was observable,
 “ (and it is for the sake of this Observation
 “ chiefly that I mention this Instance,) that
 “ the very Æthiops itself, after the Body
 “ had been fully replenished with it, in two
 “ Months Time, forced itself through the
 “ sound Part of the Leg and Chin, and
 “ stuck to those Parts of the Plaister that co-
 “ vered them, in its proper Substance and
 “ Colour ; which shews how readily this Me-
 “ dicine passes through the small Vessels of
 “ the Glands. This very Method never fails
 “ to cure Ophthalmia’s, even scrophulous ones;
 “ and is a most certain Remedy in an Ulcer
 “ of

“ of the Bladder, as I have always found, if
 “ given in a sufficient Dose, and persisted in
 “ a sufficient Time. ”

Cheyne's Essay on the Gout,
Edit. 2. pag. 48, &c.

Much may be said to shew the Impossibility of Quicksilver doing any Damage to the Patient ; what gives offence to Nature, is what we term Spiculæ, Points or Edges. Now, Quicksilver always retaining a globular Figure, together with the Softness of its Body, no Harm can happen from the Use of it ; only this I would advise the Patient, that he get a small Crucible, put into it the Quantity of a Pistol-Bullet of Quicksilver, set the Crucible on the Fire, if any of the soft Metals are put to it, they will remain, and the Quicksilver fly off. Note, a Pound of Lead costs two Pence, and a Pound of Quicksilver eight or ten Shillings ; the Profit that arises may be one Cause of its Adulteration, and another to bring the Medicine into Disrepute.

But let him take particular Care not to hang his Head over it, for the Effluvia are a Poison of the most subtil Nature.

Now, does any Thing so useful, so beneficial to Mankind, deserve to be so much exploded, and treated with so much Calumny ? But amongst all their false Insinuations, let them bring one single Instance, well attested, of the Damage any one has received from it.

Though I believe there never was a Medicine given, but sometimes has proved not only detrimental to the Patient, but even Death itself has ensued, especially when misapplied : Witness the so much celebrated *Gascoin's Powder*, which occasions yearly the Loss of many thousand Subjects to the Crown. I aver, Quick-silver never did any Harm to the Patient, which is more than can be said of any other Medicine.

There is another prevailing Opinion, That Acids are the Cause of almost all Diseases : Whereas they are not liable to Corruption, therefore must keep the Fluids pure, and without any Contamination ; nor can they be the Cause of any Fever, because they are the greatest Coolers we know of, neither can they be the Cause of any cutaneous Eruption ; because I know by Experience (as I could bring many to testify) that they are a very powerful and effectual Remedy against such Distempers.

I know no Method more proper than what is laid down in the foregoing Chapter, to restore Nature when it is in a declining State.

KING'S-EVIL, or Scrofula.

IS either Hereditary, or Accidental ; is seated in the Blood, and usually descends to the Children, if either of the Parents ever had it.

This

This Disease is seldom met with, but in young People. It generally appears first in the Glands of the Throat, with hard Swellings of a livid Colour; slow in coming to a Maturation, bearing the Touch without much Uneasiness, being attended with less Pain and Soreness, than any other Ulcer of what Kind soever.

The Accidental proceeds from any old Ulcer that has been long in curing, or from any Inflammation of the Eyes, which I have observed in a very short Time to become scrofulous.

The Hands, Feet, or any other Part may be affected with it. Before the Patient comes to be twenty-five Years of Age, 'tis rare but this Distemper naturally wears off. I was some Years since called to a Merchant's Son in this City, about six Years old: He had this Disease, in a violent Degree, in his private Parts, which were swelled to a prodigious Size; and at the same Time, afflicted with no less than seven Ulcers; I ordered him a Diet Drink; upon taking of which, the Swelling abated, and the Ulcers grew well, without any other Application than dry Lint.

The Spring following, this Distemper threatened a Return; but upon the Repetition of the Diet-drink, he was perfectly recovered.

A Receipt to cure the Evil.

“ Take Mercurius Dulcis one Dram, Antimony revived half a Dram : You may give of this Medicine three, four, or five Grains, according to the Age or Strength of the Patient. Take this twice a Week.”

In the intermediate Days, use the Diet-Drink following :

The Diet-Drink.

“ Take of the Leaves of Senna half a Pound, the Root of Monks Rheubarb seven Ounces, the Roots of the sharp-pointed Dock, the Roots of Polypody of the Oak, of each four Ounces, the Roots of Mizerion, three Ounces and a half, Rue leav’d, Whitlow-Grass, three Handfuls, Rinds of Oranges dried, six Ounces, crude Antimony, grossly powder’d, one Pound : Slice and bruise these, then put them in a Bag, and boil them in four Gallons and a half of midling Drink to three Gallons : Take half a Pint every Morning, encreasing or lessening the Dose, according to its Operation. By this very Method, I have cured great Numbers.”

N. B. *I have known several that were cured by the Doctor, by these Prescriptions ; and where they were applied, I have not found one Patient fail of a Cure.*

ELEPHAN-

ELEPHANTIASIS.

THE worst, and most obstinate of cutaneous Diseases: 'Tis Vermicular.

This Species of Eruption does not always appear the same; sometimes it breaks out like small Boils of several Colours; some yellow, some again white, and others of a livid Complexion. This last Sort sometimes brings off the Patient's Nails. I had a Gentlewoman, in this Town, in this miserable Condition; yet, in a short Time, she was perfectly well. In some, this Distemper appears in an infinite Number of Water-bladders, from whence issues great Quantities of a salt briny Matter, of so corrosive a Quality, that where it falls, it excoriates. Salivation, in these Cases, has been tried without Success; yet the Distemper yields to Remedies in no respect violent.

LEPROSY of the Greeks, or Lepra Græcorum.

THIS appears in a broad white Scale, surrounded with a small Circle of Red, but almost even with the Skin; which, as People grow in Years, for the most part gets Ground;

Ground ; so that in Process of Time the Patient becomes very uneasy. This Disease is rarely cured, because the Nature of it is for the most part mistaken, by reason Physicians suppose it to proceed from an acid Quality in the Fluids : For which Reason, they pour in Alkalious Remedies of all Sorts, which only add to the Matter of the Disease. Now, if any Person desires to be satisfied of this Mistake, I will venture to give such Proof of it, as shall be convincing from the Experience of many Learned Men, that there is no Acid of any Kind in the Fluids ; as *Pitcairn* says, the famous *Mr. Boyle* asserts. Sir *John Colebatch's* Experiment with the Syrrup of Violets, is sufficient, to go no farther. Doctor *Borehaave* is in the same Way of Thinking.

But why should Men of Art be so averse to Cold Bathing in this Case ? The *Israelites* were famous for an itchy scabby People ; and the only Remedy we find they made use of, was Immersion in cold Water.

Physicians object, That the Immersion in cold Water, in cutaneous Cases, has often thrown this corrupt Matter on the Lungs, and caused Consumptions. If they can make this appear from one single Instance, it may give some Satisfaction as to what they assert ; though it will be far from proving their Conclusion to be true. What they say of Cold Bathing, is very different from what I have experienced in Practice, and from my Way of Thinking.

Upon

Upon the Patient's Immerſing in the moſt intenſe cold Water that can poſſibly be found, all the Heat is flung from the Surface of the Body, into its moſt inward Parts; when the Patient comes out, the Heat returning from whence it came, performs its Motion with that Elasticity and Force, that it fills the Skin with vaſt Numbers of cutaneous Spots; by which the Blood becomes much finer, and thoſe corrupt Parts of the Fluids are diſcharged. For the Truth of this, I appeal to every one that immerſes in very cold Water.

It may be farther preſumed, That whereas the Patient often complains of flying Pains in the Muſcles, which occaſion a great Inability to Motion. This Diſorder, generally ſpeaking, is cauſed from Wind, blowing up the Muſcles beyond their due Tenſion: In which Caſe, they will receive Benefit, not only from the cold Quality of the Water, but more from the Weight of it, which preſſes the Muſcles into their due Places; ſo that you find your ſelf inſtantly fitter for Motion.

In ſome Parts of *Aſia*, as ſoon as any one complains of Pains in their Muſcles, and Bones, their Friends immediately throw them on the Ground, and kneel on them; at length, by preſſing their Muſcles, they are ſenſible of Relief.

I have dwelt the longer on this Head, becauſe I would have *Cold Bathing* grow as univerſal, as I hope *Inoculation* in a ſhort Time will do.

And

And now I have mentioned Innoculation, I should think it unpardonable, if I should take no Notice of her Majesty, as a great Promoter and Encourager of this Practice. I believe the World will readily allow me, that her Majesty is as much superior in her Understanding to the Generality of her Sex, as she is superior to them in that Station in which Providence so happily, for Mankind, has placed her. How many are there that are ready to run into any Mode or Fashion, tho' never so extravagant, if it has but the Sanction of the Great ! Let such, on this Occasion, imitate their Queen. Is it possible, they can be solicitous in Matters of a trifling Nature, and shew little or no Regard to what is of infinite Importance to Mankind ? Inoculation is as beneficial an Invention in every Respect, as either this Age, or any of the preceding ones have produced : Yet, what is very surprizing, it meets with little Encouragement from the Ladies. Is Beauty, that arrives to such a Perfection in an *English* Climate, of so little Importance, that it is beneath our Care ? What miserable Havock, what terrible Changes has this one Distemper produced in the most lovely and amiable Part of the Creation ? The Ladies may possibly smile to hear a Man of Seventy use such warm Expressions, but will venture to say with Mr. Dryden, That

Old

*Old as I am, for Ladies Love unfit,
The Power of Beauty I remember yet.*

I therefore lament the small and inconsiderable Progress which Inoculation has as yet made in Great Britain.

As to that ridiculous Asperſion ſome People have caſt upon it, by calling it a *Tempting of God*, and bringing Diſeaſes upon ourſelves: This, to a thinking Perſon, muſt appear ſo frivolous, that it ſcarcely deſerves an Answer. Is there one ſingle Paſſage in the whole ſacred Writings, that reſtrains Mankind from anticipating an Evil, by making uſe of the proper Precautions for preventing it? If theſe ſcrupulous Gentlemen, whoſe Conſciences were not always ſo ſtrait-laced, will produce me but one ſingle Inſtance of an abſolute Prohibition from Things of this Nature, I will readily acquieſce, and willingly retract my Error. I beg my Reader's Pardon for ſo long a Digreſſion; but I hope, the Importance of the Subject will ſufficiently atone for it. I can aſſure them, what has been ſaid on this Occaſion, is not from any View to my own private Inter-eſt, but merely out of Regard to the general Good of Mankind.

N. B. *What the Doctor here mentions concerning Cold Bathing in cutaneous Caſes, is undoubtedly of great Uſe; but as he immediately falls into high Recommendations of Inoculating the Small Pox, I cannot avoid diſſenting from his*

his Opinion in that Affair, because many of my Acquaintance have died who underwent the Operation, and many more may suffer by the like Experiment.

BRANNY ITCH, or Pruritus Farinus.

THIS Sort of Eruption is much like Bran, from whence it takes its Name. 'Tis pretty universal, spreading all over the Body and Limbs, but is much easier cured than either of the former.

'Tis cured by the same Method with the Leprosy of the *Greeks*; that is, by Bathing frequently in Cold Water.

ITCH or Pruritus.

THIS is the most common of all the cutaneous Distempers, very much infesting the Sea-Coasts of *England, Scotland and Ireland*; and is very contagious. It is caused generally by Filthiness, and feeding much upon Fish. This, even the illeterate allow to be vermicular. In hot Climates I have seen the

Vermin

Vermin moving in the Pustles. The Remedies which are used, undeniably prove the Disease to be very vermicular ; for all Mercurial Ointments and Washes, nay, a Quicksilver Girdle, are the common Remedies ; and we know nothing that so infallibly destroys Worms as Mercury.

Note, *While these are applied outwardly, Flower of Brimstone taken inwardly helps much to forward the Cure.*

I shall now proceed to give a Description of most of the Acute Diseases amongst us, as I have done of the Chronic ; except a Lethargy, which proceeds from too moist a Brain, and needs no Description.

A wash to cure the I T C H.

‘ Take one Quart of Spring Water, dissolve
‘ in it one Dram of Sublimate, Cream of Tar-
‘ tar, half an Ounce : Wash the Pustles over
‘ with this at Night going to Bed : Change
‘ your Linnen, and three Nights, at farthest,
‘ you shall be well. ’Tis necessary, at least, to
‘ purge. I likewise recommend Bleeding, ’

Note, *This Wash is of so cleanly a Kind, and of so great Efficacy in Cure of this Distemper, that many Persons about London get tolerable Livelihoods by it.*

PLAGUE

PLACUE, or Pestis.

I SHALL begin with what the Learned Dr. Willis says of it. *Natura pestis miasmata virulento & spiritali fundatur, a quo Effluvia vaporosa quaque versus diffusa adeo potenter se explicant, ut vel ex minimo seminario feracem mortis & exitii segetem cito propagent.*

By this he only designed to describe after what Maner the Infection is conveyed ; which seems very reasonable. Take the Description of this Distemper as follows :

It begins as all other Fevers do, with Intermissions of Heat and Cold ; the Symptoms are higher than in any other Fever ; intense Thirst, violent Vomitings, Pains in the Head, Back, Joints, and all over the Muscles, a total Failure and Prostration of all Strength and Ability ; as if there was, as in Reality there is, a general Mortification of all the Fluids ensuing.

The Appearances, which come on in a few Hours, are what we call Petechiæ, or black Spots ; with a Bubo or Inflammatory Swelling in the Groin, or some other of the Emunctories.

This Disease is very soon at a Crisis, in
three

three or four Days at the farthest, but generally sooner.

When we took the two Cities of *Guiaquil*, under the Line, in the *South-Seas* it happened, that not long before the Plague had raged amongst them. For our better Security therefore, and keeping our People together, we lay in their Churches ; and likewise brought thither the Plunder of the Cities : We were very much annoyed with the Smell of dead Bodies. These Bodies could hardly be said to be buried ; for the *Spaniards* abroad use no Coffins, but throw several dead Bodies one upon another, with only a Draw-Board over them ; so that 'tis no Wonder we received the Infection.

In a very few Days after we got on Board, one of the Surgeons came to me to acquaint me, that several of my Men were taken after a violent Manner with that Languor of Spirits, that they were not able to move. I immediately went among them, and, to my great Surprise, soon discerned what was the Matter. In less than forty eight Hours we had in our several Ships one hundred and eighty Men in this miserable Condition.

I ordered the Surgeons to bleed them in both Arms, and to go round to them all, with Command to leave them bleeding till all were blooded, and then come and tie them up in their Turns. Thus they lay bleeding and fainting, so long, that I could not conceive they could lose less than an hundred Ounces each Man.

If

If we had lost so great a Number of our People, the poor Remains must infallibly have perished. I began to consider, that the Plague was no more than a Fever of the most exalted Kind; and so *Duro huic nodo durior adhuc cuneus adbibendus*. A Fever we define to be *Aucta sanguinis Fermentatio sanguini & humoribus inducta*. The only Intention of Healing, must be to abate that preternatural Fermentation, and resist Putrefaction, which must be by large Quantities of cooling and diluting Liquors. We had on Board Oil and Spirits of Vitriol sufficient; which I caused to be mixed with Water to the Acidity of a Lemon, and made them drink very freely of it; so that notwithstanding we had one hundred and eighty odd down in this most fatal Distemper, yet we lost no more than seven or eight; and even these owed their Deaths to the strong Liquors which their Mess-Mates procured for them.

They had all Spots, which in the great Plague they call Tokens; few or none of the *Spaniards* escaped Death that had them; but my People had them, and Buboes too.

Now, if we had had Recourse to Alexipharmicks, such as Venice Treacle, Diascordium, Mithridate, and such like good-for-nothing Compositions, or the most celebrated *Gascoïn's* Powder, or Bezoar, I make no Question at all,

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all, considering the Heat of the Climate, but we had lost every Man. *

'Tis surprizing to me that Physicians can read so many Authors, and overlook the most reasonable Rules for the Good and Preservation of Mankind, and imbibe Principles, which, were it not for fear of giving Offence, I should say, are contrary to Common Sense; I shall instance in one more remarkable than all the Rest.

The first Axiom that is laid down by *Riverius* in his Theraputic Part of his Institutes, is, *Omnis curandi Methodus a primo hoc & generalissimo principio desumitur, contraria contrariis curantur.*

Galen says, No Rule in the Mathematicks is more certain than this. I have had more than Forty Eight Years Experience to back this Assertion, and in the worst Climates.

Read the Man whose Reason was much superior to mine, the honest and good Dr. *Sydenham*, and see if the Rule above was not his Guide.

* The Doctor is against the Use of Alexipharmicks for the Plague in violent Hot Countries; yet we are well assured, by many noted Authors, who lived in the Time of the great Plague in *London*, that by the Use of Alexipharmicks several Hundreds were cured, and this proved of no less Advantage to the People of *Marseilles*, when that Place was lately infected with that direful Distemper; but indeed the Doctor's Scene was near the Line, where Alexipharmicks could not be altogether so beneficial as in our cooler Climates.

Sennertus

Sennertus also in his *Institutes* says, *Quicquid curatur curatur contrariis.*

This very Rule has been so little regarded, that a Physician of this Town offered to lay Five Hundred Pounds with me, that I did not produce such an Axiom; but as he grew cooler, he thought better of it. By this it appears, how little Notice is taken of the most useful Rules in the Art of Healing.

If it should please God to afflict us with this Disease, some Persons must be under no small Concern to procure a sufficient Quantity of Cantharides; for if it should so happen that People went to their Graves with whole Skins, then the most sovereign Remedy would be omitted. Now this great Catholicon does not only poison and inflame the Fluids, but draws off the purer Part of the Blood; which is the Serum. By this Practice the Mass becomes more grumous and thick, so that Circulation is impeded, and the Patient suffocated: Whereas, if there was Care taken to dilute and thin the Mass of Blood, Circulation would be much easier maintained, and by this Means prevent Death. An eminent Physician was asked, How Blistering came so much in Fashion? He answered, They had it from the *Indians*. But I, that have seen more *Indians* than all the Physicians in *England*, deny that the *Indians* ever make use of Blisters. They do often cauterise; and in all Fevers amongst them they cover the Patients over in the Sands, till they are

in

in a profuse Sweat, and then throw them into the Cold Water, by which Means they become well.

I should be glad to know if Dr. Radcliff ever used this inhuman Method of Blistering, as it is now in Vogue. I should be glad to know likewise, if there is any Authority from any of our most approved Authors for such a Practice. The honest Dr. Sydenham calls Blistering, *Humano corio ludere*. Dr. Baynard would say, That as *Belzebub* signifies a Fly in the Hebrew Language, that the Devils were nothing but great Cantharides. We should likewise be at a Loss for Bezoar, that petrified Matter of Disease cut out of the Paunches, Galls, and Bladders of some of the nastiest Creatures in Being, as Guananoes, a monstrous Beast between a Camel and a He Goat, black Cattle, Hogs, Goats, and an ugly Animal they call Pacos D'la Tierra, Monkeys, Porcupines, and all such nasty Animals.

Of this I have been credibly informed by Persons of the best Reputation, both in the *East* and *West Indies*.

We in Dissections too often find in the Galls and Bladders of Human Bodies great Quantities of Stones, which doubtless may as well serve for Bezoar, as the diseased Matter of the afore-mentioned Beasts. They for the most Part dying with these several Sorts of Stones, as by Experience 'tis daily seen we do.

SPOTTED FEVER, *or* Febris Pestilentialis.

THIS begins like the Plague, excepting that all the Symptoms are less violent. Intermissions of Heat and Cold, Vomiting, great Pains in the Head, Back, Limbs, Joints, and all the Muscles, intense Thirst. The first Crisis is the Petechiæ, or black Spots. If the Patient survives this fatal Disease, the last Crisis, which we define to be *Subita & repentina mutatio in morbo facta vel ad salutem vel ad mortem divergens*, is seldom before the seventeenth or twenty-first Day.

About thirty-seven Years since this Fever raged much in *Bristol*, so that I visited from twenty-five to thirty Patients a Day for a considerable Time, besides their poor Children taken into their Workhouse, where I engaged myself, for the Encouragement of so good and charitable an Undertaking, to find them Physick, and give them Advice at my own Expence and Trouble for the two first Years. All these poor Children in general had this Fever, yet no more than one died out of the whole Number, which was near two hundred.

I shall

I shall give a particular Instance of one Person cured in an uncommon Way.

One *Thomas Hacket*, an Apprentice to Mr. *John Scandret* a Grocer in *Wine-street, Bristol*, labouring under this fatal Fever, had a violent Hemorrhage, or Flux of Blood at his Nose, notwithstanding great Quantities of Blood were taken from his Arms, and the most cooling Medicines administer'd which could be thought of; yet all proved ineffectual, insomuch that there was no room to expect his Life. I ordered a large Vessel to be filled, below Stairs, with Spring Water. He was carried down in a Sheet, and put into the Water; he dipp'd his Head several Times, upon which the Bleeding stopped. I believe he might continue in the Water a Quarter of an Hour; after which Time he was carried to Bed, only covered with a Sheet. He slept well that Night; the Spots all disappeared; he was very well, only weak, and is now living in *Bristol*.

This being of a very high inflammatory Nature, it is proper to take away large Quantities of Blood, giving the Purge described in the Goat, every other Day; taking after it, the same Night, the following Draught.

“ Black-Cherry-Water, Mint-Water, of
 “ each one Ounce and a Half; Plague-Wa-
 “ ter half an Ounce, Diacodium ten Drams,
 “ made into a Draught. Of the Days you do
 “ not purge, take the following: Conserve
 “ of Wood-Sorrel, of Hips, and Barberries,

Dissolve in *of*

“ of each one Ounce ; Cream of Tartar, and
 “ Tartar vitriolated, of each two Drams ;
 “ Syrup of Raspberries, enough to make it
 “ into a fine Electuary. Take the Quantity
 “ of a Nutmeg at four or five in the After-
 “ noon, and at Bed-Time, drinking after it
 “ a Tea Spoonful of *Mynsicht's* Elixir of Vi-
 “ triol in a large Glass of Water, keeping the
 “ Patient very cool, and giving large Draughts
 “ of cooling and diluting Liquors. ”

*N. B. The Doctor gives us in this, as well
 as in other Cases, the best Tokens to know every
 Distemper by, that I have met with, nor are his
 Prescriptions founded without Reason, except, that
 in some, I think, they are a little too harsh, but
 there is no arguing against Fact, this last Me-
 thod of Cure is drawn with very good Judgment.*

The FLUX SMALL-POX, or Variolæ Confluentes.

THIS Disease was, doubtless, long be-
 fore the Time of *Hippocrates*, or the
 Divine old Man, as we call him, and yet 'tis
 very surprising he makes no mention of it ;
 nor have we any *Greek* Word for it.

There are three Species of this Disease com-
 monly known to Physicians : The Confluent,
 Anomalous, and Distinct.

I shall

I shall venture to set down a Fourth Kind, which I have observed, as different from the three former as they are from each other ; and which may be called the Spotted Kind.

I shall begin with the most Fatal of the three first Sorts, the Confluent Small-Pox.

This Distemper sets out in the same Manner as other Fevers do, from the Plague to an Ague, Intermissions of Heat and Cold, Vomitings, great Thirst, violent Pains in the Head, Back, &c. But the Physician may be assured where those Lumbago's, or Pains in the Back are complained of, let the Fever be of any Kind whatsoever, it certainly carries a Sting with it, though no Man can say what Species of Fever it will be before its first Crisis.

Soon after the Patient is seized with this Sort of the Small-Pox, the Face and Hands, and all Parts of the Body shall be very much inflamed, broad red Spots appearing ; and the second or third Day, at farthest, there shall begin to appear an entire Blister from Head to Foot, often attended with spitting Blood, bloody Urine, and the like.

One would think from the new-invented Way of curing this Distemper by Blistering, (for which no good Reason can be given, nor do I remember any Authority for it,) that this Disease must certainly bring its Remedy with it ; for here is a Blister from Head to Foot, and consequently this Confluent Kind

of Small-Pox ought to be less dangerous than the other two Sorts. But to our great Grief, we find this Sort to be more difficult to be cured, than either Pestilential Fever, or Plague; nor does any acute Disease come up to it for Danger, except the fourth Sort of Small-Pox, of which I shall speak hereafter.

It will be necessary to take Notice of the critical Days in this fatal Disease. There is little Mention made of any critical Day in this Town but the *Ninth*, which is no critical Day, nor is it possible any just reckoning can be kept by it. Thus, while People are ignorant of the Days of Danger, how can Provision be made against them.

The critical Days we shall venture to say are the eighth, the eleventh, the fourteenth, the seventeenth, and the twenty-first, to be thus accounted.

If you are ill at ten of the Clock at Night, that must be called the first Day, as really it is inclusive.

And 'tis thus we reckon Tertian and Quartan Agues.

Now in Confluent Small-Poxes, if the Patient begins to complain at two or three in the Morning, there shall be broad red Spots appear before twelve at Night. 'Tis evident, the critical Days are much protracted by the Cru-
dity of the Matter; which always happens when it appears so very soon; and by this
Protraction

Protraction the last critical Day comes to be the twenty-first.

'Tis a known Maxim in Physick, *Primæ concoctionis vitium non corrigit secunda* ; and so on.

In the Anomalous Kind, which is less crude, the fourteenth or seventeenth are the last critical Days ; and in the distinct Sort the eleventh.

This Account, I'll venture to say, is a true one ; so that the ninth Day has no Place amongst the critical Days. If the Faculty please, it may be called one of the *Dies Indices*.

ANOMALOUS SMALL-POX, or Variolæ Anomalæ.

THOUGH my Design is to treat of several acute Diseases ; yet there need no farther Description, than that where Symptoms appear high, the Fever will be of a more dangerous Kind ; and where they are more remiss, the ensuing Distemper will be of a more favourable Sort.

This Species of Small-Pox is distinguished from the other two by its fluxing in some Parts, and being in other very distinct.

The Physician may be very serviceable to his Patient in this Case, if it be rightly understood,

derstood, otherwise the Patient often suffers Death. But it must be considered, Nature is three Days forming variolous Matter, most Physicians are too apt to be giving heating Medicines to throw it out ; by which Means the Fever is very much encreased, which brings on a great Ataxie, or irregular Motion of the animal Spirits, so that all Digestion of the morbidick Matter is obstructed, contrary to a known Maxim, *Costa non cruda sunt medicanda*. So that nothing but Water-Bladders and blue Spots appear, which renders the Patient's Circumstances very deplorable.

It must be Want of Observation that makes Physicians so fearful of Bleeding in this Distemper after the Eruption. The good Dr. Sydenham goes no further than, *Mittetur sanguis quovis die ante tertium inclusive*, which is but the second Day after their Appearances. But the most excellent Peter Bayrus of Turin, who wrote about one hundred and ninety Years since, goes further ; and I can affirm, by Experience, and from the Success I have had, that the Patient may be bled every, or any Day, to the twenty-first.

It is impossible it can pass the Observation of Physicians, and People that usually attend Women in this Species of Small-Pox, that about the sixth or seventh Day great Floodings come, especially, if it happens in the Flower of their Age : Now, all this is arterial Blood, which is the Life and Spirit
of

of Mankind. And this is never prejudicial, where no Endeavours are used to stop it. Nature will neither be forced nor driven, and is often very hard to be led; but will do Wonders when properly assisted.

Now, if so much arterial Blood may be lost, without Inconvenience, how much more may be taken by Phlebotomy from the Veins, with the utmost Advantage to the Patient.

There is one Thing very Material, and which ought, principally, to be regarded in this Distemper, that about the seventh or eighth Day there comes on a Ptyalism, which is a Salivation, without which, the Patient never lives. Children, that have it, never Salivate, but have a Diarrhæa, or Looseness, which is much the same in Effect. Where the Physician stops it, he kills the Child; and how many poor Babes have lost their Lives by this Practice, 'tis terrible to think.

Permit me to give an Instance of a Gentleman, who was Steward to the Duke of *Beaufort*, one Mr. *Curr*; he had this Species of Small-Pox, no Ptyalism coming on at the usual Time, I gave him Mercury; but that not answering, and he lying, as it were in *Extremis*, I resolved to make a Child of him, and purge him to eight or ten Motions, by which he was so much relieved, that I went on in that Course every Day, 'till the Danger of his Distemper was over. He is now

living in *South Wales*, a Gentleman of 1000 *l.* per Annum.

This brings to my Mind, a Saying of the great and learned Lord *Verulam*, *Non fingendum aut excogitandum, set inveniendum quid natura faciat aut ferat.*

DISTINCT SMALL-POX, or Variolæ Distinctæ.

THERE wants very little to be said on this Kind of Small-Pox. I have heard of several, but never had one that died in this Case: The less is done, the better; for having but a few, they are never of a bad Sort; whereas, if you have many, they are never of a good Sort.

SPOTTED SMALL-POX.

THIS Sort begins with very high Symptoms, and appears with large red Spots, much like the Confluent Kind, with the Face and other Parts very much inflamed; yet in twelve Hours the Patient shall become perfectly pale, the very Middle of those red Spots turning

turning to a black, corney Substance, hardly so big as a large Pin's Head. Of this Sort, in forty-odd Years Practice, I have observed no more than five, all Children. I could never carry one to the first critical Day ; whereas, in the Confluent Kind they rarely die before.

Method of Cure.

“ In this I bleed in large Quantities, keeping the Patient very cool, and constantly plying him with cool Tankards, and such diluting Liquors, giving every Evening, about five of the Clock, an Ounce, or an Ounce and an half of Diacodium. If that does not procure Rest, after three Hours I repeat it. I sharpen all his Malt-Liquors with Spirit of Vitriol. If it be of the Flux, or Anomalous Kind, the seventh Day I give of Mercurious Dulcis, and Cinabar of Antimony, of each half a Scruple, made into a Bolus, with any Conserve ; and do the like again the thirteenth Day. The tenth Day you may begin to use the following Cordial in small Quantities.

“ Take Cowslip-water, Mint-water, Black-Cherry-water, of each three Ounces, Plague-Water, and Aqua Mirabilis, each an Ounce and a half prepared ; Pearl, a Dram and a
 D 5 “ half

“ half sweetned with fine Sugar. You may,
 “ sometimes, take a Glass of Wine, agreeable
 “ to a known Maxim in Physick : *In decli-*
 “ *natione Morbi quo magis Calefacis eo magis*
 “ *Concoctionem promoves.*”

“ When the last critical Day is over, I
 “ bleed to about twelve Ounces, the next
 “ Day purge, with that set down in the
 “ Gout, taking a Quieting Draught of Dia-
 “ codium at Night when the Purging is over.
 “ Purging and Bleeding, very well, after this
 “ Disease, must upon no Account be omit-
 “ ted ; otherwise the Patient will break out
 “ in Boils, and will have very fore and weak
 “ Eyes for a considerable Time after.”

Whilst I lived with Dr. Sydenham, I had myself the Small-Pox, and fell ill on *Twelfth-Day*. In the Beginning I lost twenty-two Ounces of Blood. He gave me a Vomit, but I find, by Experience, Purging much better. I went Abroad, by his Direction, 'till I was blind, and then took to my Bed. I had no Fire allowed in my Room, my Windows were constantly open, my Bed-clothes were ordered to be laid no higher than my Waste. He made me take twelve Bottles of Small-Beer, acidulated with Spirit of Vitriol, every twenty-four Hours. I had of this Anomalous Kind to a very great Degree, yet never lost my Senses one Moment.

This Method will serve very well in the Confluent Sort. This you may follow in the
 Distinct

Distinct Small-Pox, but in a more remiss Degree.

Miss *Corbet* had as high a Confluent Small-Pox as ever I saw, making bloody Water, and the worst Symptoms attending her. Dr. *Mead*, and another Physician, left her, saying, She could not live six Hours. I was called to her; I desired she might instantly be bled. The Right Honourable the Lady *Hotbam*, her Mother, sent for a Surgeon, who refused to do it, telling my Lady, that Dr. *Mead* said, That if she was bled, she would die instantly. I told the Lady, That *Colours were all the same to the Blind*; I had a *black Man* that bled very well, and sent for him, who performed the Operation: She lost a vast Quantity of Blood. Miss *Corbet* declared afterwards, That, upon Bleeding, she found her Spirits revived, and, as it were, a new Life coming on; and so it pleased God she recovered.

But there is lately a new Species of the Small-Pox, called the *Honey-comb Small-Pox*, never known before. The Use of Blisters, in this Disease, robs the Pustles of the Matter contained in them, and then the Pustles, by subsiding, something resemble an *Honey-comb*. But if Doctors will create new Diseases, 'tis fit they should give them new Names.

N. B. *What the Doctor observes, with regard to the several Sorts of Small-Pox, is exceeding good, and, in particular, I remember Miss Corbet's*

Corbet's Case, which was accounted very desperate, but was perfectly cured by Dr. Dover; but it was of such a Nature, that her Skin was very much pitted.

M E A S L E S, or Morbilli.

THIS is a Disease chiefly incident to Youth; the Pustles never rising above the Superficies of the Skin, unless forced by too heating Medicines, and too hot a Regimen. It is attended with a short Cough, and generally terminates the fourth or fifth Day, carrying with it little or no Danger, if the Physician be not over-busy with his Cordials and forcing Medicines, which only encrease the Fever, and by that Means often endanger the Patient.

I do not remember I ever heard of any one's dying of this Disease, 'till about twenty-five Years since; but of late, by the Help of *Gascoin's Powder*, and *Bezoartic Bolusses*, (which, if experienced on a healthy Person, would endanger his Life) the Blood is so highly inflamed, and the Fever encreased to that Degree, that it is become equally mortal with the *Small-Pox*.

There

There is nothing farther required in the Cure of this Disease, than to give a little Diacodium at Night, allowing a sufficient Quantity of cooling and diluting Liquors.

Note, I have frequently found the Doctor's Method to be right in the Cure of this Distemper ; but the Patient, on Recovery, must purge two or three Times.

SCARLET FEVER, or Febris Scarletina.

THIS is a Fever of a milder Kind than the Measles, and does not want the Assistance of a Doctor. The Skin seems to be universally inflamed, but the Inflammation goes off in forty-eight Hours.

There is also another Sort of Fever, with Eruption too inconsiderable to make another Chapter. This Distemper, called by some the Swine-Pox, by others the Chicken-Pox. There is nothing more necessary in these light Fevers with Eruptions, than to purge duly after them.

Use the same Method as in the Measles.

ERYSIPELAS,

ERYSIPELAS, or Febris Erysipelatosa.

THIS Fever, when in the Face, is called St. Anthony's Fire; when in the Body, or Limbs, Erysipelas.

It appears with a very great Inflammation, where it begins with vast Numbers of Water-Bladders, and is very apt to turn to a Mortification, as it often does, insomuch, that the Patient loses his Life. But, by proper Remedies, it is very easily cured, and in a few Days.

This inflammatory Fever is curable by high Bleeding, and frequent Purging. The best topical Remedy is Venice-Treacle, which prevents Mortification, and soon destroys the Pustles, or Water-Bladders.

Note, The Doctor's Method of Cure, in this, is certainly very Right, as I have often experienced.

PERINEUMANIE,

PERIPNEUMANIE, or Peripnumania.

THIS comes on, as all other Species of Fevers do.

'Tis known by a violent, acute, and poignant Pain all round the Breast and Sides. In short, a general Inflammation of that most sensible Membrane, the Pleura, accompanied with a great Difficulty of Breathing, short Cough, Languor of Spirits, and kills in a very few Hours, without profuse Bleeding.

This Distemper is incident to all Ages and Sexes, but generally seizes adult Persons.

The principal Thing required in the Cure of this Disease, is Bleeding, which must be followed 'till all the poignant or shooting Pains are entirely removed.

Method of Cure.

“ Take Oil of Lilies, Oil of Sweet Almonds, Ointment of Althea, of each equal Quantities ; rub it into the Parts affected very well, Morning and Night, putting a Sheet of brown Paper over it.

“ Take a Melon, Pompion, Gourd-Seed, of each half an Ounce, white Poppy-Seeds
“ three

“ three drams, ten Jordan Almonds blanch’d;
 “ bruise these in a Marble Mortar, pouring
 “ on, by little and little, a Pint and half of
 “ Barley-Water. Add a little Sugar, and make
 “ an Emulsion. Let the Patient drink plenti-
 “ fully of this. Take Oil of Sweet Almonds
 “ two Ounces, of Syrup of Violets, and Sy-
 “ rup of Venus Maiden-hair, of each one
 “ Ounce, Sugar-candy half an Ounce, mak-
 “ ing it as sharp with Spirit of Vitriol as a
 “ Seville Orange would do, and make a Lam-
 “ bative : take of it often in a Day from a
 “ Liquorish Stick. ”

PLEURISY, *or* Pleuritis..

THIS may be said to be the Half of a
 Peripneumonie, affecting one Side only ;
 some will have it, that it falls only on the
 Left Side, but it often comes on the Right
 too. 'Tis an high inflammatory Fever, accom-
 panied with violent, acute, and pricking Pains,
 with a short Cough attending it, with which,
 after a little Time, if the Physician be not
 ready in bleeding it off, the Patient spits a
 bloody and purulent Matter, and is in danger
 of a Consumption.

The Cure is the same as in the foregoing
 Chapter..

Chapter. I never knew any one die of this Disease, but for Want of Bleeding.

QUINSEY, or Angina.

THIS is one of the most violent and acute Fevers that can befall us. The Learned make not three Species, but rather three Degrees of it, viz. This inflames the Tonfils, or Glands about the Throat, as also the Muscles of the Wind-pipe and Gullet, so that swallowing any Thing is totally obstructed. This Disease yields to nothing but high Bleeding. Many have died in eight Hours after the first Seizure.

Method of Cure.

“ This Disease requires as high Bleeding
 “ as any ; you must likewise open both Veins
 “ under the Tongue. Take Plantane-Water
 “ Red Rose-Water, and Frog’s-Spawn-Wa-
 “ ter, of each three Ounces, the Whites
 “ of three Eggs beaten to a Water, Syrup
 “ of Mulberries two Ounces, gargle your
 “ Throat often with these. Another Gar-
 “ garism, though this be a very good one, I
 “ much prefer : Take Spring-Water one Pint,
 “ Mercury Sublimate half a Dram, Cream
 “ of

“ of Tartar two Drams: Levigate these
 “ very fine, then filtre it off for your Use.
 “ Purging is very requisite.”

*N. B. This Method has cured great Numbers
 of People where it has been timely administred.*

RHEUMATISM, or Rheuma- tismus.

THIS is, likewise, a high inflammatory Fever; the Blood does not appear more pleuritical or sizely in any Distemper than in this.

This, for the most Part, causes great Pains in the Joints; nor are the Muscles free. If it fixes in any Part three or four Days, it often causes small Tumours without Inflammation, which, as the Pains pass to other Parts, soon disappear; for they are never long fixed on any Part; from whence it takes the Name of Arthritis Vaga, or Wandring Gout.

In the Day-time these Pains are very tolerable, but when the Patient is warm in Bed, very acute and torturing.

Bleeding, in this Case, is no Remedy; I my self having known very many lose an Hundred Ounces of Blood, and more, without the

the least Relief. The Cure is much easier performed without that Operation, as has been often experienced by several eminent Physicians.

Method of Cure.

“ Take Turbith Mineral eight Grains,
 “ Conserve of Hipps one Dram; make it
 “ into an Electuary. Take it about four a
 “ Clock in the Afternoon; between every
 “ Motion drink Posset-drink. At Bed-time
 “ take an Ounce, or an Ounce and half of
 “ Diacodium; drink plentifully of the Emul-
 “ sion prescribed in the Peripneumonie. The
 “ next Night take of the Sweat as prescribed
 “ in the Gout. Immersion in cold Water
 “ is a Remedy of singular Use, as is evident
 “ from many Hundreds that have been cured
 “ by cold Bathing.

A G U E, or Febris Inter- mittens.

I HAVE observed, That a Consump-
 tion was an inflammatory Disease, ranged
 among the Cronicks : An Ague is a nervous
 Distemper, placed amongst the Acute.

This

This Species of Fever does not proceed from an inflamed Mass of Blood, as all other Fevers do, but from an Ataxie, or violent Motion of the animal Spirits, which causes as great a Degree of Heat, as if the Blood were in the most exalted Fermentation. All Heat being nothing else but the Effect of Motion.

Physicians have been very much at a Loss to find out the Cause and Seat of this Disease, it being, as was observed before, a nervous Fever. It must proceed from the Brain; otherwise, how is it possible it should keep its stated Periods, so as to come at the same Hour every Day, every third, and every fourth Day, as it certainly does, reckoning the Days inclusive. Whereas in an inflamed Mass of Blood, the Fever always continues 'till the Inflammation is wholly taken off, and then the Fever ceases, without any Return.

Farthermore, we say, *Ex juvantibus & laedentibus sumitur indicatio*. Bleeding, 'tis plain, from every one's Experience, is highly prejudicial in this Case. The Remedy to which this Distemper yields, is the Bark, which is the best Medicine in nervous Cases known to Mankind. Yet the giving such large Quantities of the gross Part, has often done very great Prejudice to the Patient.

The Virtue of this Vegetable consists in a resinous Quality; which, if separated from the earthy Part, will prove a Remedy indeed.

It may be wondered with what Difficulty
the

the Use of the Bark was first introduced, and that it should almost be looked upon at present as a *Panacæa* is, equally surprizing, inso-much, that now there is more Harm done by it, than it formerly did Good. The Doctor watching diligently for an Intermiſſion ; where-as there's great Difference between Intermiſſion and Remiſſion ; for as all Fevers have their Times of Excerbation, ſo neceſſarily they muſt have Times of Remiſſion, but none of Intermiſſion ; becauſe then the Patient muſt be perfectly well and free, as in an intermitting Fever. Too many pay dear for this Miſtake.

Doctor *Morton*, eſteemed a good Phyſician, was a great Admirer of this Medicine, inſo-much, that he gave it in almoſt all Caſes. I never obſerved it to do any Good, but in nervous Complaints. Phyſicians and Apothecaries are little acquainted with the Nature of it. In *Peru* they call it *Cascarilla*. It may be doubted if one hundred Weight of it be uſed in a whole Year throughout that Kingdom, which is more than twenty Times as large as *Great-Britain*. *

“ Take two Ounces of fine Bark groſſly
 “ powdered ; infuſe it cold in a Quart of
 “ Red-Port for twenty-four Hours ; then fil-

* The Seeds of this Plant are ſhaped like thoſe of the Kidney Beans, I received ſome of them two Years ſince from *Peru* ; they were broad and flat, but were ſo dry, that I could not make them grow, I judge from the Figure of the Seeds that the Tree is a kind of *Accacia*.

“ tre

“ tre it off as you use it, taking six Spoonfuls
 “ every third or fourth Hour, beginning just
 “ when the Fit is off, ’till you have taken the
 “ whole Quart. Thus repeat it four Times,
 “ and it will not return. This must be ob-
 “ served, if it purges, it will do no Service.
 “ In this Case put two or three Drops of Li-
 “ quid Laudanum into each Dose, ’till the
 “ Purging is stopp’d. ”

N. B. *I have approved this Method to be as
 good as the taking the Bark in the Powder,
 and is much more pleasant to the Patient.*

FEVER on the SPIRITS.

IT may be justly said, All Fevers are on
 the Spirits, and no where else. ’Tis wise-
 ly observed, this Fever does not appear ; to
 which may be readily answered, *De non existen-*
tibus & de non apparentibus eadem est ratio.

This naturally leads me to take Notice of
 the Fluids of human Bodies, and I shall leave
 it to the Opinion of the Reader, in which of
 them a Fever begins or continues.

Now the Fluids consist of animal, mineral,
 and vegetable Beings, Alkali’s, and Acids,
 which

which may be thus accounted, Spirit, Sulphur, Salt, Earth, and Water; there is no Description to be given of the first of these, unless a negative one, the two second are Minerals, the other two the joint Cause of Vegetation.

Let the Reader consider, if a due Mixture of the four last are capable of begetting such a Heat in human Bodies, as to cause a Fever without the Intervention of the Spirits, from whence it may reasonably be concluded, all Fevers proceed.

This is cured as in the foregoing Chapter.

DISEASES of the STOMACH, de Ventriculi affectibus.

ALMOST all Distempers proceed from a Vice in this Bowel; and, it as rarely fails to have its Share in most Disorders liable to human Bodies; as great Sickness, Pains, Convulsions, which are the usual Complaints the Patient makes when this Part is affected. This, seems, principally, to be caused from Indigestion; so that the crude Chyle mixing with the other Fluids, soon brings on Putrefaction; for if the first Digestion be not Good,

good, the second never corrects the Vice of the first ; as we say, *Primæ concoctionis vitium non corrigit secunda*, and so on ; so that any Distemper we are liable to, may, and for the most part does proceed from Indigestion.

Vomiting, in the fore-mentioned Disorders, if exploded, would prove beneficial to the Patient ; it being contrary to the Rules of Nature, which has provided, that what is received at the Mouth, should pass to the common Draught : So that Purging seems more reasonable, because by that, the Intestines, as well as the Stomach, are freed from their Filth and Impurities, which Vomits do not so effectually carry off.

There is farther this Disadvantage, that the Fibres of the Stomack are drawn from their true Peristaltick, to a contrary Motion, which is too great a Strain for those fine Vessels, by which Means they become lax, and are much weakned ; so that the Tone of the Stomach, by too frequent Repetition of this Practice, is wholly lost.

I shall forbear to mention the many Instances that may be given of those that have lost their Lives under the Operation of Vomits.

'Tis confess'd, the Doctor many Times gives Satisfaction to the Patient, by shewing the slimy Matter that is brought off the Stomach, upon the Points of Feathers ; whereas that Matter is necessary to promote Digestion. Let it be considered, for what End were those little

little Cells formed in the Crusta Villosa, surely not to be kept empty, neither to be filled with what's of no Use or Benefit to Mankind.

“ Take Salt of Wormwood two Drams,
 “ Juice of Lemon six Ounces ; take a Spoon-
 “ ful of this every Hour : Or take of Spring
 “ Water half a Pint, *Mynsicht's* Elixir of
 “ Vitriol a large Tea-spoonful : Take this in
 “ the Morning, at Five in the Afternoon,
 “ and at Bed-Time: Or take *Mynsicht's* Tinc-
 “ ture of Steel, Elixir Proprietatis, equal
 “ Quantities ; take this in Water, as before,
 “ but double the Quantity. Crude Mercury,
 “ taking an Ounce every Day, exceeds all,
 “ taken in any Vehicle.

N. B. *By Experience every one of these Methods prescribed by the Doctor, I have found to Answer the End he proposes.*

DISEASES of the IN- TESTINES, de affecti- bus Intestinatorum.

TH E S E shall be placed in one Chapter,
 by Reason of the Nearness of their Re-
 lation to each other.

E

The

The Duodenum is a Gut so called, from its Mensuration, being almost twelve Inches in Length.

The Jejunum is so termed, because 'tis rare to find any Excrement in it.

Authors have seldom taken Notice of any Distemper incident to these two Bowels.

The third is the Ileon, *a circumferendo*. In this Intestine is seated the most painful and dangerous Disease, called the Iliac Passion; and by some, the *Miserere mei*, from the acute Pains it gives the Patient. *Expertus loquor*.

It begins with Vomitings, with a great Pain about the Navel; which encreasing, at last the Patient vomits up his Excrements, or any Clister given; and then it is incurable.

This does not proceed, as some People will have it, from a Twist in the Intestine, by Reason of the Misentery adhering to it, but it is caused from an Inversion of the peristaltick or vermicular Motion, which naturally moves downwards. Now, this being turned upwards, the Excrement being carried before it, presses on the Valves of the Intestines, which, together with its being contracted within itself, gives that miserable and intolerable Pain.

The next of the Intestines, is called the Cœcum, or Blind Gut. This hangs more like a Soldiers Knap sack, from the other Intestines; the Excrement passes in and out the same Way: I don't know that it is liable to any Distemper.

After this, comes the Colon, *ab impediendo*; because

because it hinders the Excrement from passing too quick : Without this Retention of the Excrement, we should be always subject to Diarrhæa's or Loosenesses.

The Disease, incident to this Intestine, is called Cholera Morbus, the Cholick.

Of this, there are two Kinds : Either Bileous, or Histerical ; or when in Men, Hypochondriacal. As their Causes are widely different, so are the Methods of Cure.

The Rectum, or Sreight-Gut, in great Weaknesses, is apt to fall down, which we call Procidencia Ani, and is known to every one that has it ; and therefore needs no Description.

The Sphinctre-Muscle is very subject to the Hæmorrhoides or Piles, both within and without, which many Times cause Fistula's in the Part.

DISEASES of the INTESTINES.

The Iliac Passion.

YOU need go no further for the Cure of this fatal Disease, than to take a Pound, or a Pound and half of Crude Mercury.

N. B. This is an approved Remedy.

The C H O L I C K.

“ **F**OR the first of these, take Rheubarb,
 “ Cream of Tartar, Liqueurish, Corian-
 “ der-Seeds, powder all these very fine; take
 “ half a Dram Night and Morning in a Glas
 “ of Wine : Or take Black Cherry-Water,
 “ Mint-Water, of each two Ounces, strong
 “ Cinnamon-Water, Liquid Laudanum twen-
 “ ty Drops; take this at Night going to Bed;
 “ or take the Salt of Wormwood, as pre-
 “ scribed in Diseases of the Stomach, for the
 “ other.”

N. B. *By Experience, this produces a certain
 Cure in the most racking Pains.*

The Streight G U T.

IS often infested with little white flat
 Worms, called Ascarides; which are de-
 stroyed by the following Clyster: Boil Quick-
 silver in Water in an Earthen Pot for two
 Hours; give it by way of Clyster.

The

The Case of Miss *Corbet* was so very remarkable, that it made a very great Noise all over the Town, insomuch that the Gentlemen of the Faculty seemed to be much alarmed. The Right Honourable the Lady *Louisa Berkeley* being left off by other Physicians; and the Right Honourable the Lady *Rachel Mannors*, being likewise left off by her Physicians; it was agreed on all Hands, that I kep'd them alive several Days longer than was expected by any Person about them. The Lord *Irwin* died of the Small-Pox, near the same Time; as did the Duke of *Rutland*, and Mr. *Mansel* of a great *Welsh* Family. Great Endeavours were used to saddle me with the Death of these three Gentlemen: It was given out by the Apothecaries, that I had killed all three of them, by introducing a new Method of Practice: Whereas, to the best of my Knowledge, I never saw the Face of either of them.

I never affronted any Apothecary, unless ordering too little Physick, and curing a Patient too soon, is, in their Way of Thinking, an unpardonable Crime. I must confess, I could never bring an Apothecary's Bill to three Pounds, in a Fever: Whereas, I have known some of their Bills, in this Disease, amount to forty, fifty, and sixty Pounds. If they can't cure with less Charges, I can't forbear saying, That I have the same Opinion of their Integrity, as I have of their Understanding.

Since these Gentlemen have been pleased to take such Liberties with my Character, I think I have an equal Right, or, that, at least, it will be pardonable in me, if I endeavour to lay open some of their Irregularities to the World. When I have attended some of my Patients, they have very often given it as a Reason for not seeing me, That I do not prescribe every Time that I visit them; and have likewise told me, That they learned this Doctrine from the Apothecary, *That 'tis your Writing Physician only, who has a Title to a Fee.* I must own, at first Sight, this carries a very good Face with it, and must naturally create in Patients a great Opinion of the Apothecary, who seems, in this Respect, to act merely out of Regard to their Welfare, and not from any View to the Doctor's Interest, or his own. But to me, it appears very plainly a Deceit, however plausible to others; and, to make it clear to you, only consider, that if the Physician writes, it must be ten or twelve Shillings at least in the Apothecary's Way; and for my Part, I don't look upon this to be at all better than picking one Man's Pocket, to put Money into another's.

Now, I appeal to each unprejudiced Reader, Whether, if a Physician must be compelled to vary his Prescriptions, when there is no Occasion for it, he is not consequently left under the greatest Uncertainty, and incapable

capable of judging what may, or may not be of Benefit to his Patient ? So, that, if such a Practice does not prove fatal to the Patient, he runs, at least, a very great Hazard of his Life.

'Tis my Opinion, the less Apothecaries Gains are, the better the Patients may afford to see their Doctor. I know very well, I am no sooner called to a Patient, but it is reported immediately he is dead, and I have killed him ; as in the Case of Sir *John Blunt*, very lately, who was struck with the Dead Palsey : However, in four Days his Senses were perfectly restored to him ; and in twelve Days, he had the same Motion, Life, and Sensation, on that Side which was struck, as on the Side that was not affected.

If, by what I have said, I have disobligh'd all the Apothecaries in the Kingdom, I have not many more Enemies amongst them, than I had before. If it should be asked now, What was the original Grounds of their dislike to me, I can give no other Reason, than my being always inviolably attached to the Interest and Welfare of my Patient, and entirely regardless of these Gentleman's unwarrantable Gains.

If, after all that has been said, I am still to be recommended by Apothecaries, and must depend entirely upon their good Word, I can assure the World, I shall soon retire ; Where none, except the Poor, will have any Assistance from me.

I am very sensible, my Method in curing Fevers, is much exploded, because I act quite contrary to the common Practice. I happened to live in *Glocestershire*, in the Years 1728 and 1729 ; when a very fatal Epidemical Fever raged to such a Degree, as to sweep off whole Families, nay, almost whole Villages. I was called to several Houses, where eight or nine Persons were down at a Time ; and yet did not so much as lose one Patient where I was concerned. I defy the Malice of my most implacable Enemies to make it appear, that in my ten Years last Practice I have lost twelve Patients in all Kinds of Fevers put together.

The Case of *John-Dineley Goodeere, Esq* ; of *Charlton in Worcestershire*, near *Evesham*, was very remarkable : Some Years ago, when he was in *London*, he was seized with a violent Fever : He was unwilling that *Sir Edward Goodeere*, his Father, who was in Town at the same Time, should know any Thing of it ; so that he was, as it were, *in Extremis* before his Father was acquainted with it. He ordered me immediately to be called to his Son ; whose Eyes where set in his Head, his Jaw fallen, his Tongue directly black and hard, his Face as black as an *Indian*, with round Drops upon it as big as Pease or Pulse. The Apothecary being present, I asked him, if he blooded. He told me, Yes ; and accordingly got every Thing in order for it. I bid him take Care to make a large Orifice, which he did.

He

He asked me how much Blood he must take away ? I answered, I could not tell. He said, he had taken off twelve Ounces. I said, Let the Patient bleed on. The Apothecary now told me he had drawn twenty Ounces. Then I discerned something of a Pulse coming on in my Patient. In the Conclusion, he bled to forty-eight or fifty Ounces. The Sweat went off, and his Face came to its Colour. Whilst he was bleeding, I got a cool Tankard of Rhenish Wine, Water, and Lemon, which held near three Quarts : I raised him upon his Pillow, and gave him about a Pint-Glassful ; and, immediately after, he began to move his Eyes, and close his Jaws. In a very short Time after, I gave him a couple of Glasses more. He then fixed his Eyes hard upon me, put his Hand out to me, and said, *Is it you, my dear Friend ?* I asked him, *If he could drink.* He answered, *The Ocean.* I made those about him rub his Head with dry Clothes, and then asked how he found himself ? He answered, in a strange confused Condition. In one Hour, or thereabouts, he flung the Clothes off the Bed, put his Feet in his Slippers, called for his Night-Gown, walked to the other Side of the Room, set himself down in a two-armed Chair. Now, *my dear Friend*, (says he) *we will have one Flask of Claret together.* I told him, I would drink a Flask of Claret ; but that he must stick to his Cool Tankard.

The

The next Morning, when I came to wait on him, he was down in the Stable amongst his Horses, without a Cap, having nothing on but his Night-Gown and Slippers. I asked him, *How he did?* He said, *Never better in all his Life.* This was in the Month of *March.* Now, this is termed a desperate Way of Practice. But then, they who condemn it, should give an Instance of any one I have lost by such Methods.

There is nothing more certain, than that the whole Animal Creation is liable to divers Kinds of Diseases; and it is as certain, that the Almighty Goodness has afforded Animals such Appetitions of Nature, or Instinct, that we daily see they have Recourse to such Remedies, whereby they recover their Health. Birds resort to their several Sorts of Castings, when then their Stomachs are depraved; in Fevers, to Cold-Bathing; or when they have gorged themselves with too much Food, then to their Weatherings on the Tops of high Trees. Let but a Lady's Lap-Dog go out in the Fields, he shall search every where to find out the *Gramen Caninum*, or *Dogs-Grass*; of which he shall eat, till he both Vomits and Purges. As for the Reptilia, those small Animals, there is no doubt to be made, but they have also their Remedies. Now, by our Treatment of the several Diseases incident to us, it seems as if Providence had exempted us from this great Benefit afforded to the subordinate
Crea-

Creatures. If we have a Fever, we must be kept close, and plied with the most heating Remedies; be denied cooling and diluting Liquors, and every Thing else that we call for with the greatest Earnestness. This is contradicting the Rules of Nature, and most certainly Wrong. Right Reason, and the Rules of Nature, will eternally tally.

I am credibly informed, the most learned and ingenious Doctor *Boerhaave*, in all Fevers bleeds plentifully, gives Air to his Patients immediately, tears of all Blisters, and indulges the sick Person with all manner of cooling and diluting Liquors.

The Remedies that have been prescribed for the several Distempers mentioned in this Treatise, may, with God's Blessing upon them, be depended on as very efficacious in the Cure of each particular Disease; unless a Person has a Complication of Distempers upon him at once. But I must give the Reader one Caution, that there is a great Difference in the Constitutions of Mankind; and therefore it must be left to every Man's Discretion, as to the Quantity he is to take of each of these Medicines.

I have gone through most of the Distempers common to the Climate we live in, and have shewn, at the same Time, what is the most likely Method of curing them; and hope, that as to the Plainness of my Style, and making the Prescriptions intelligible, I have been

as

as good as my Promise made in the Beginning of this Treatise.

I do not seek for Applause from this Performance, especially, from the Gentlemen of the Faculty, being sensible how many great and powerful Enemies I have amongst them; who, as they have done all they could hitherto to discredit my Practice, so probably will take occasion from the Publication of these Sheets, to improve their Invectives and Resentments against me. But as Custom has made ill Usage familiar to me, I think, I am prepared for any future Calumny. In the mean Time I would caution unwary People against one Thing; which is, not to mistake every Graduate for a Physician, nor a Clan of prejudiced Gentlemen for Oracles. Experience is all in all; and, I will venture to say, some Experience has fallen to my Share, having sought it in other Places besides the Shops of Apothecaries, or the Colleges of Physicians.

From all the Doctor has laid down in this Treatise, it appears, that he perfectly understood the Distempers he treats of; and where any of his Prescriptions may appear a little harsh, it is to be supposed as he declares, that the Doses, or the Practice, must be lessened to those People who have tender Constitutions: On the Whole, I esteem the Work to be founded on as good Principles as any of the Kind yet publish'd.

P O S T-

P O S T S C R I P T.

HA V I N G omitted the following Letter from *Anthony Balam, Esq;* in *Great-Russel-Street*, which I designed to have inserted, when I was speaking of *Quick-Silver*, I shall give it my Readers in this Place.

London, April 15, 1732.

S I R,

“ **Y**OU have always undoubtedly great
“ Satisfaction in hearing Success at-
“ tends your Advice, especially in obstinate
“ Chronic Cases, which have long baffled
“ the Power of Physick.

“ I therefore think myself indispensably
“ obliged to give you that Pleasure, so much
“ your Due, in reciting the Effects of your
“ Prescription.

“ You will, I am sure, excuse me from
“ the difficult Attempt of explaining my
“ Case; which, were I able to execute,
“ would be needless to you, who are so well
“ acquainted with it. Let it therefore, suf-
“ fice to say, That my Asthma has been
“ from my Infancy, and, at different Times,

“ has

“ has afflicted me under all the various Shapes
 “ that Distemper exhibits in all the Patients
 “ I ever yet conversed with, and, that I
 “ never found any very sensible Relief from
 “ Physick. Some Time in *December* last
 “ was Twelve-Months, you advised me to
 “ take Quicksilver ; I happily resolved to fol-
 “ low this Advice, and immediately found
 “ great Relief. Other Disorders, after some
 “ Time using it, intervening, occasioned
 “ some Interruptions in my Course ; and
 “ from *June* ’till *October*, being in the Coun-
 “ try, I quite forbore the Use of it ; but, at
 “ that Time, I again began taking it, one
 “ Ounce *per* Day, and hath hitherto conti-
 “ nued it with very few Intermissions : The
 “ Consequence of which, is, that from the
 “ first Time of taking it, to this Instant, I
 “ never had any violent Fit ; and, during all
 “ the last Winter, I have not been confined
 “ otherwise than through Precaution, to
 “ avoid the Inclemencies of very bad Wea-
 “ ther, or upon slight Attacks, when Rest
 “ is always preferable to any the least Mo-
 “ tion. My Complaints, though very greatly
 “ diminished, I cannot say, are absolutely re-
 “ moved ; I have had frequent Symptoms
 “ threatening me, and especially this Spring ;
 “ the Variableness of the Weather being
 “ always a great Enemy to me. But hap-
 “ py in a high Degree is my present Con-
 “ dition, when compared with my Former.
 “ To

“ To you I am indebted for this Happiness;
 “ and, I shall be always ready to make such
 “ Acknowledgments of it, as the most grate-
 “ ful Sense can inspire.

“ If you think my Name may do any Ser-
 “ vice in encouraging other Sufferers to try
 “ a Remedy, which, by my Experience in
 “ a long Use, proves not only very innocent
 “ of the Charge of bringing on other bad
 “ Consequences, but, likewise, the sole efficaci-
 “ ous one in this lamentable Disorder, you are
 “ very welcome to make such Use of it as
 “ you may think proper.

“ I have the Liberty to mention another
 “ Gentleman's Name, who, through my
 “ Means, and by Encouragement from me,
 “ has reaped a much greater Advantage from
 “ your Advice than myself. Mr. *More*, who
 “ lives at *Epsom*, has been troubled from his
 “ Infancy with an Asthma in an extream De-
 “ gree: About last *February* was Twelve-
 “ Month he began the Use of Quick-silver:
 “ He has taken it ever since with very few
 “ Intermissions: He has from that Time had
 “ but two small Fits; the last was in *August*
 “ past, and was the least of the Two: Since
 “ that Time, he has not had one Asthmatick
 “ Symptom; and from not being able scarcely
 “ ever to walk, he has, for his Diverſion,
 “ walked from *London* to *Epsom*.

“ I wish you may soon produce so many
 “ other Examples of such Cures, as may
 “ over-

“ overcome all Prejudices and groundless
“ Fears, and propagate the merited Credit
“ of so salutiferous a Remedy. I am,

S I R,

Your most obliged

And very humble Servant,

To Dr. DOVER.

ANTHONY BALAM.

N. B. Having taking Notice of some Errors in the Practice of other Physicians, I shall frankly acknowledge one in my own: I have hitherto been too zealous in recommending one particular Apothecary; but am resolved, for the Future, to let all my Patients make use of any Apothecary they like best; which, I think, is but doing Justice to the Gentlemen of that Profession.

T H E

T H E

Hospital Surgeon.

Of Mercury.

TH E following Tracts, being the Result of a long Practice and Experience, joined with a diligent Application, makes it needless to write any Preface to this Piece. It may not, however, be improper to acquaint those who have not read the former Part, which was first printed in 1695, that this has a Connexion with it; and may be esteemed an additional Advantage thereto, as it serves to perfect and compleat that Work; tho', without such Assistance, it has already met with so universal an Approbation, as to have been translated into all the *European* Languages.

It should be observed, likewise, that the *Italian* Translation of the famous M. *Sancaſa-*
ny, Counsellor and first Physician to his Highness the Duke *de Guastale*, has brought over some Persons who were too tenacious of old Principles, and had professedly wrote against this new Method.

Surgery

Surgery is under this Obligation to them, that their Obscurity has added a new Light to my Imagination, and compelled me to produce such Reasons and Proofs, as may make some Progress toward perfecting our Art; and upon this Motive I resumed my Pen. I think my self obliged to ward off the indirect Attacks made on my zealous Translator, by answering all Doubts and Objections, and by opposing the false Maxims of Antiquity, with Reason and Experience.

In this Dispute, I was not a little surprized to see my Letters translated and printed, by the Care of my ingenious Translator, notwithstanding the unpolished, laconic, obscure, and unartful Style in which they were written.

However, they happened to be well received by many very excellent Professors, with which *Italy* abound. My Translator has several Pieces in his Possession, which I never took a Copy of; and in this Collection there are some already printed in *Italian*, which I have reviewed, corrected, and made some Additions to; but, as that Language is not much used in *France*, I chose to publish them likewise in the same with my former Work.

I should likewise observe, that I had the good Fortune, on my own accord, to fall into the Opinion of the famous *Cæsar Magati*, and afterwards to raise him up out of the Obscurity in which he had remain'd for above a whole Century.

This

This is a sort of a Miracle wrought by my former Work. The Reader will meet with other Miracles of Art in this: Eyes entirely lost, restored by one single Operation, and a Number of desperate and mortal Cases, by wrong Treatment, conquered by gentle and expeditious Methods. These will appear upon a Perusal of this Work: and a faithful Practice will evince the Truth of them. *Magatus* is here revived by Accident: The happy Success of our Operation in Diseases of the Eyes, is not owing to my Invention; I have only had the Advantage of setting it forth on several Occasions, having never met but with one Person in my Life who has practised it before me.

Mercury, whose Virtues I here publish, is a Miracle of Nature, and the greatest Gift of Providence in the whole *Materia medica*.

My Knowledge of it is more owing to Chance, than to all I could collect from those who have used it, or wrote of it.

I am ready to acknowledge, that it was not from the Result of any Reasoning, that I first entered upon the Use of it; however, the Success I met with from its Administration, encouraged me to adhere to it, and to add Authority to one Experience, by another; I have since met with frequent and favourable Opportunities of experiencing its Efficacy in many chronical and inveterate Diseases, which, although deemed incurable, have yielded

ed to the Power of crude Mercury. I have found out a Method to prevent it from subliming, tho' I cannot be of Opinion, that the Heat of our Bodies is sufficient to sublime it without such a Restraint. I have mixed it with gentle Catharticks, which determines one Part of it by Stool; another Part of it enters into the Mass of Blood, and mixes with the Lymph in Circulation, without losing its globular Figure, which it never leaves 'till it has rendered it capable of penetrating every where by its Subtility and Fluidity, and of nourishing all Parts of the Body by Means of its balsamic Particles, which it restores to their natural State, when they are depraved and altered, and removes all Obstacles that may impede its Progress. It is a professed Enemy to all heterogeneous, vitiating, or malignant Matter: As I became acquainted with its Virtues thro' a long and constant Practice, I have not been very solicitous in consulting Authors who have treated of it; I know that Mr. *Lemery*, and some others extol it.

Avicen says, that some People drink it without any ill Consequence, and prescribes it for Children in Scald-heads. *Planiscampus* attributes more excellent Qualities to Mercury than to Guaiacum. *Marianus Sanctus* directs no less than four Pounds of it to be taken in the Iliac Passion. *Antonius Musa*, and *Mesue* recommend it for the Worms and the Itch.

Mr.

Mr. *le Duc*, a Physician, who made a Voyage to the *Levant*, tell us, that the Women of *Smyrna* frequently swallow two Drams of it at a time to assure Conception, and laughs at those who think it a Poison ; for, says he, the Workers in Quicksilver-Mines have gotten a Trick of swallowing some Pounds of it, just as they are leaving off Work ; which they discharge as soon they get Home, and sell. To prevent which Roguery, 'tis usual to confine them for some Hours after they have done Work, that they may be obliged to evacuate what they have swallowed.

Some look upon Mercury to be hot, and others cold ; however, if it mollifies the Blood, if it mitigates the most exquisite Pains, and calms the Tumult of the Spirits in the *Volvulus*, and in many other Disorders ; if it disposes lean Persons to grow Fat, as without doubt it does ; these Considerations added together, make it more probable that 'tis rather cold than hot, or, at least, of a Temper between both.

But whether it be hot or cold 'tis its Effects I chiefly regard, and not its Qualities. Let it be extolled or condemned, its Virtues will be always the same : 'Tis Matter of Fact that no one Thing in Nature is capable of producing so salutary and surprizing Effects in almost all Disorders ; some are of Opinion, that it is a good Medicine, but dangerous, which is giving it a good and bad Character

at

at the same Time, and thereby make Room for Fears and Doubts, and deprive an infinite Number of afflicted Persons of the speedy Help they might receive from its Use.

Experience being the strongest Evidence can be offered, I thought it might not be improper to relate some Cures performed, at different Times, on different Subjects, and in different Disorders. A very large Volume would hardly contain all those which I have performed in the Space of the three and forty Years that I have made use of Mercury, was I to publish them. I have followed the same Method in this Treatise, as I have done in my former Work, where at the End of the Cure of each Wound, I have annexed an Observation by way of Reflection ; and in this, I have also subjoined a kind of *Rationale* to every Experiment, in order to explain the Mechanical *Idea* which I had of this Remedy.

In the Year 1681, when I was at *Turin*, a young Abbot informed me, that after an impure Commerce, he had been attacked with some venereal Complaints, which were indifferently taken Care of ; that, some Months after, he was afflicted with nocturnal Pains in several Parts of his Body, together with an Ulcer in his Nose, which he shewed me. He told me, that the Posture of Affairs, and the Season of the Year, would not permit him to enter upon a strict Course of Medicine ; and, that it was of the utmost Consequence to him, to have his
Disorder

Disorder kept Secret ; desiring me to contrive some Method which might for the present hinder its further Progress, and in the Spring, he said, he would go to *Paris* for the Convenience of perfecting the Cure.

I had, at that time, but a superficial Knowledge of Mercury ; and therefore made him up, according to my usual Manner, a Mass of purging Pills, and ordered him to take a single Pill every other Night going to Bed.

He had not taken them above five Times, before he told me his Pains were diminished, and his Ulcer much better. And after eleven or twelve Doses, he found himself intirely cured, to his own Surprise, as well as mine, who imagined I had only palliated the Disease.

I advised him, however, for Security's Sake, to continue his Medicine for some little time longer, and 'tis very certain, that he never afterwards felt the least Symptom of the Disorder.

If we consider, that Mercury is the only Remedy capable of destroying the venereal Virulence, it will not be surprizing that it wrought this Effect in the present Case. But it seems difficult to account for its acting in so salutary a Manner, without giving the Patient the least Inconvenience ; he having never been interrupted in his Rest or Diet, through the whole Course of his Cure, nor was he confined to his Room, or any ways altered his usual way of Living, so as to give any one the least Suspicion

spection of his being under a Course of Physick.

This was the first Cure I ever performed in such a Manner, being, at that time, Surgeon-Major of the Hospital of *Briancon*, where I practised the same Method with equal Success. In the Year 1694, *M. le Marechal de Catinat* sent me several subaltern Officers to *Oulx*, who were afflicted with the same Distemper : They took no other Remedy, and returned to the Army in six Weeks, fat, brisk, and well, without any farther Trouble. I omit relating the Particulars to avoid Prolivity, and shall only give one Instance of a Cure of each Kind, unless some extraordinary Circumstance shall induce me to the contrary.

In the following Year 1682, *M. le Comte de S. George*, Gentleman of the Horse to her Royal Highness, and a Captain in the Guards, desired me to visit the Corporal of his Company, who had been troubled with a schirrhous Tumour, for two Years, at that time as big as one's Head, which covered his right Thigh, so that he could hardly walk with a pair of Crutches : The most eminent Surgeons in *Turin* had ordered him many Remedies, without Success : I was resolved to try what Mercury would do in this Case, and having continued it, in the Manner afore-mentioned, for eighteen or twenty Days, the Tumour softened, and came to Suppuration. I opened it, and discharged seven or eight Pints of Pus and Lymph,
and

and in a Month's Time he was perfectly cured, and walked without his Crutches.

The Success I met with in this Cure, gave me a high Esteem for the Remedy, but my Removal to another Station, soon after, deprived me of the frequent Opportunities of applying it as I wished. Besides, my Age had not as yet advanced me to a requisite Degree of Credit for acting as I thought proper, and therefore was obliged to wait for a more favourable Season.

In the Year 1687, being Surgeon-Major of the Hospital of *Luferne*, I administered it with Success in several hard and schirrhous Tumours. I found that those which were but of a moderate Size, and of no very long Duration, would be dissipated without Suppurating; and that those which were larger and of a longer Date, would come to Suppuration. This made me of Opinion, that notwithstanding their Hardness, Age and Insensibility, yet they were not intirely without a Communication with the Fluids.

To give a Mechanical Explication of the Effect of Mercury in these Tumours, it must be considered, that the Matter which constitutes those Tumours are owing to Congestion, as well as Obstructions in all other Parts of the Body, cannot move of its self, when it is once accumulated and stopped: Notwithstanding the Elasticity of the Parts, there is an absolute Necessity for something to shock, subtilise, render it fluid, and disunite it.

To answer this End, the Fluids which circulate in Tumours, as well as in other Parts of the Body, must be put into a rapid Motion, sufficient to disintangle, loosen, and remove that which before was fixed and without Motion. 'Tis Mercury alone which is capable of performing this Office, as it unites it self with the Lymph, follows its Motion, and accompanies it through all Parts of the Body.

These little Globules, which are divisible *ad Infinitum*, roll along with it inseparably : The Rotundity of their Figure make them fit to encounter the Obstacles they meet with in their Way without any Fear of their being stopped, withheld, or entangled : They slide upon, strike, rub, and put those Particles of Matter into Motion which were united, connected and coagulated, in the Parts, or in the Glands, contrary to the Laws of Nature : They render them more fluid, reduce them to Pus, or carry them away with themselves, to be excreted by the perspiratory Passages, or by Stool or Urine.

By this Mechanism, unnatural Tumours, Obstructions in Ulcers, and other Parts of the Body, are removed, the Fluids re-established in that State which is necessary to Life, and the Preservation of Health : This is what I conceive concerning the two Operations of Mercury on Coagulations ; that of absorbing, and that of dissolving ; tho' these are Philosophical Terms, which with regard to operative Effects

Effects are to be explained in a very different Manner, as I shall endeavour to shew hereafter.

In 1691, when I was Surgeon-Major of the Hospital of *Briancon*, I was fetched to a young Woman, who had a Tumour on her Right Cheek for two Years: When it came to Suppuration it was dressed with a Tent, which left in Fistulous, and by Degrees the lower Jaw became so fixed, that its Motion was entirely lost, and her Mouth so closed that she was constrained to live wholly on Broths, or other Liquids. I was told, that she had made use of several Remedies without any Success.

I ordered some very small Pills to be made up for her, one of which she took every other Day for a Month, at the End of which her Jaw was relaxed, her Mouth opened, and her *Fistula* perfectly healed, to the great Joy and Surprise of the Patient. As this Cure was somewhat extraordinary, it prevailed upon me to administer the Remedy in several chronical Diseases, which had before eluded the Force of all the usual Medicines, which notwithstanding, yielded to this.

The greatest Part of the *Fistulas*, which happen in Wounds and Abscesses, are the Consequence of Tents, which by bending the Fibres of the Canal, into which they are introduced, and by their frequent Friction, and continual Compression, unite them, and cause them to adhere to one another, 'till at length they form what is usually call'd a *Callus*.

As there are a great Number of small Vessels in all Parts of the Body, which convey the Lymph and the other Juices: The Orifices of the little Tubes, which are contained within the whole Extent of the *Callus*, and which confines and bears upon the aforementioned replicated and united Fibres, are disunited by the Force of the globular Particles of the Mercury mixed with the Lymph: The nutritious Juice expands it self among the Fibres thus relieved, and re-instates them in their original Order: I think the Effect Mercury produces upon the callous Part of *Fistulas* cannot be so easily explained in any other Manner, as by its shocking and disengaging the Fibres which were before replicated and glued together; in which Case 'tis absolutely necessary that the Tent should be thrown aside: Those who are resolved to have it, that its Virtue consists in absorbing of Acids, should not urge that Consideration here, where there are no Acids to be absorbed; or if they urge that it serves to dissolve the *Callus*, let them give some mechanical Account how it is performed; for 'tis certainly true, that it must act after the same Manner here as in other Obstructions and Tumours, and that 'tis only by virtue of some mechanical Property, that it answers the End in such a Number of various Cases.

After the Peace in 1696, I had the Honour to succeed the famous M. *Thouvenot*, who was, till his Death, first Surgeon to her Royal Highness;

Highness ; soon after I came to *Turin*, I saw a poor Girl begging on the Steps of *St. John's* Church, in a Place called *Cornie* : The Number of scrophulous Holes in her Face, and upon her Breast, rendered her an Object horrible to look at : Besides this, all the Glands of her Neck were swoln, and her Hands and Feet were quite deformed.

I sent for her Home, and prevailed upon her to take a Dose of my Mercury every other Day ; and being willing to see her take the first Dose my self, I ordered some Soop to be brought her, to drink after it.

She continued to use this Medicine for the Space of six Months, at the End of which Time she was perfectly cured ; so that she was afterwards married, and had several Children.

Scrophulous Cases are the most difficult to cure, and very few Remedies affect their Cause. They frequently occur in some Climates and Nations, and are often the Inheritance of our Ancestors Irregularities : Their Origin is in the Blood, their Seat in the Glands and Joints. The Coldness of their Nature, and the Viscidity of their Humour, which is inspissated by an Acid, makes them not easily conquered by ordinary Remedies.

It has been long since confessed, that Mercury is the only Medicine capable of performing a thorough Cure in these Disorders, either by liquefying, dissolving, and putting the Juices in Motion, or by destroying the Acids

and vicious Ferments, which occasion the coagulation of the Lymph, and by sending Spirits and Heat into the afflicted Members.

The Acid which is the Cause of these cold Coagulations, is exceeding difficult to be destroyed. The Mercury can by its Motion, but little affect its soft and glutinous Texture: And for this Reason a considerable Time is required before it is able to disconcert it, and break, or blunt the Points of the Acids which occasion it; however, without Dispute, it affects it at last: For by circulating with the Lymph in the Articulations, and in the scrophulous Glands, it gradually removes the Obstacles which oppose the Course of the Fluids.

About a Year after, I had under my Care M. Dufaure, a Frenchman, who had been afflicted with a Tumour in the Liver for above two Years, for which he had consulted several Universities, to no Purpose.

This Tumour was bigger than one's Fist, exceeding painful, and externally protuberant, by which 'twas easy to determine the Extent of it: His Pulse was irregular, he was troubled with frequent *Syncopes*, want of Sleep, and an universal Uneasiness.

I proposed to him the Use of my Remedy, as a proper Dissolvent for the Dissipation of his Tumour: He drank chalybeated Wine with it, in which *Capillus Veneris* was infused; and was perfectly cured in a Month's Time by the constant Use of his Medicines.

This

This Tumour was schirrhous, notwithstanding it was painful ; which might possibly be occasioned by its Compression upon the Parts which it adhered ; and he has enjoyed a good State of Health ever since.

Mc. *Couturiere*, Milliner to her Royal Highness, was afflicted in 1703, with a Tumour in her Breast, which grew considerably in a short Time, being very painful and hard, and tending directly to a *Carcinoma*.

She used the same Remedy, and was entirely cured in one Month, having never since felt the least Pain in that Part. Vast Numbers have been cured, both at Court and in the City by the same Medicine ; and very lately a Lady of the first Rank, whose Name I forbear to mention, though she has made no Secret of the Cure herself : However, if these Complaints are inveterate, the best Way is not to meddle with them, or to proceed immediately to Amputation : They have always been looked upon as Cases of the most difficult Cure, and are deemed incurable, when ulcerated. They are excruciating upon Account of their Pain, and insupportable upon Account of their Stench ; and there is nothing but crude Mercury taken inwardly, which by its Friction is able to blunt the Points of the Acids that consume the Flesh in the Parts affected. And when the Cure becomes impossible, nothing is more fit to mitigate the Pain, prevent a further Progress, and oppose Corruption and Stench.

When our Court attended the Queen of *Spain* as far as the Borough of *Cony* in 1702, I was, in returning back, seized in the City of *Fousan*, with so violent a Fit of the Gravel, that I imagined it would have carried me off. I voided, in the Bath which was prepared for me, several small Stones and Gravel, with inconceivable Torture, and the Liquor which came away was pure Blood instead of Urine.

I was carried to *Turin*, where Mr. *Fousage*, at that time, first Physician to her Royal Highness, prescribed me Medicines for three Months, at the End of which I relapsed into my former Condition, voiding Stones and Gravel with excessive Pain.

At length I began to take my Dissolvent into Consideration ; imagining, that these Stones were formed and concreted by a thick Lymph, which could it be rendered more fluid, would prevent any farther Concretions of this Sort ; and to this End I made Use of my Remedy : The Consequence was, that all my Symptoms ceased, and I have not from that Time to this been sensible of the least Touch of my Complaint. 'Tis true indeed, that at certain Seasons I take a few Doses of the Medicine, which I believe secures me against a Relapse.

I am the first to whom I ever administred this Remedy in such a Case ; but not the last : I have frequently given it to many Persons in the same Condition, and always with good Success. It is not less efficacious in Retentions
of

of Urine from a viscuous Gelly. *M. le Baron de Chainaye Nisar* has experienced it to his Satisfaction. For four Years together he could not make Water without the most exquisite Pain and Labour : He took this Remedy, and in a short Time he evacuated his Urine freely and without Pain. *M. le Chavelier de Morete* who could make no Water for five Days together, without the Assistance of my dear Fr'end *M. Ciconigni*, and two other Physicians of Note ; but was cured in one Day's Time by the Assistance of my Remedy. I have a fresh Case of the like Nature, where the same Remedy was given with Success. But such Relations lead me too far out of the Way ; so I shall suppress this with many others, notwithstanding a great Number of Instances are the most persuasive ; for a single Cure might be imputed to mere Chance.

It appears then that crude Mercury is useful in the Gravel, by bringing it away and preventing the Viscosity of the Lymph, which conglutinates the tartarous Particles of the Blood.

These Viscosities occasion much the same Symptoms as the Stone it self, and although the Pains they produce are not so exquisite, they are, however, frequently attended with a Suppression of Urine, by obstructing the Tubes which should convey it into the Bladder : In such a Case, Mercury by the Rotundity of its Particles, and its Motion, is capable of

breaking, dividing and dispersing, the Coagulation of the Lymph, and that in a short Time ; and, at the same Time, it blunts the Points of the Acids, and obliges them to let go whatsoever they are connected with ; thus every Thing is restored to its natural Order.

M. *Campagnole*, who keeps one of the most noted Houses of Entertainment in *Turin*, is subject to a violent Cholick ; which Disease has reduced her to the last Extremity for these three Years. In 1722, she was attacked with this Distemper in the Middle of the Night. As I lived in the Neighbourhood, she sent for me : I found her in a deplorable Condition, and gave her a double Dose of my Mercury ; soon after, her tormenting Pains ceased, and before Morning she voided by Stool a Pailful of Excrements and Water : The next Day she voided the same Quantity, and so was entirely freed of her Complaint : In the last Fit before this she was tortured a whole Month between Pains and Medicines, yet this gave her Ease in a few Minutes after it was taken.

The prodigious and hasty Evacuation in this Case was owing to Catharticks, but the Mercury contributed very much to it, by dividing the Humours, and rendering them more fluid, and fit to be discharged. This Woman had all the Epigastrick Region stuffed with viscuous and acid Humours, which occasioned a Tension and Irritation in the Intestines, and weakened the Peristaltick Motion of the
Guts,

Guts, which nothing could better re-establish than Mercury, by the Motion of its Particles : It, at the same Time, blunted the Points of the Acids, which occasioned Convulsions in those Parts : And the Crispation of the Fibres being removed, whatsoever the Guts contained was naturally precipitated by the Weight of the Mercury.

Mercury, when it is received into the Stomach, is blended with whatever it meets with there ; and, as the lacteal Vessels receive what is subtle enough to enter their Orifices, the more volatile Part of the Mercury is consequently admitted and conveyed into the Mass of Blood, which it renders more fluid and soft ; whilst what remains in the Intestines, pursues the common Course of Purgatives.

In 1710, one M. *de la Pierre*, Governor to a German Lord, had an inveterate Itch, which eluded the Force of all the Medicines he had taken in *France* and *Holland*. He took of my Mercury, and without the Assistance of any other Remedy, was perfectly cured in three Weeks, went away very well satisfied, and the next Year wrote to me to send him the Medicine to the *Hague*, one of his Friends being under the same Misfortune.

M. *Carret*, Commissary of War in the Armies and Hospitals of *France*, was afflicted with an ill-favoured red Tetter, which spread over half his Face, he refused to take any Remedies that were recommended to him ; but
came

came to me as soon as conveniently he could ; I gave him my Mercury, which had so sudden an Effect, that he perceived himself sensibly amended after the first Dose ; after the second the *Teter* was apparently diminished, and after the fourth it was hardly discernable. However, he continued the Use of it ; but after the fifth Dose, there was not the least Footstep of it remaining.

Another Cure was performed upon M. *le Comte d'Argue*, a *Bavarian* Gentleman, with the same Expedition. As he returned from *France*, where he had been for his Health, he was seized in *Savoy*, with Pains in his Shoulders, and a large Cluster of Pustules which covered his whole Face, this was in 1723. He sent for the very learned M. *Cicognini* to advise with him, whether it would be better to put himself under a Course of Medicine at *Turin*, or to return to *France*. This Physician recommended Me, and my Remedy, which he thought sufficient to extricate him from the Difficulty he laboured under : After he had twice taken it, he found his Pains abated, and his Pustules decaying, which entirely disappeared after the fourth Dose. He continued the Repetition of it some short Time, and stocked himself with a good Quantity when he went away.

The sudden Alteration occasioned by the Mercury in this tumified *Teter*, is an undeniable Proof of its mixing with the Lymph.

Its

Its manner of Operation is the same in *Tetters*, Itch, and Pimples of the Face and other Parts of the Body, as it is in schirrhous Tumours, *Scrophula's*, *Carcinomia's*, *Wenn's &c.* it removes the Obstruction of the Glands, by destroying the Acids which caused it; and the Lymph conveying it to the Pores of the Skin, its volatile Particles, carry the Acids which lurk in those Pores along with them, and discharge them by insensible Perspiration. Thus are the fibrous *Mamillæ*, which were before compressed and rendered inactive, restored to their prestine Form, Elasticity, and Office: And the Orifices being unlocked, Perspiration goes on as before.

Although the Disorders, which I have described, were attended with Variety of Symptoms, yet were they all produced from the same Cause. The softer Preparations of Mercury, as *Ethiops Mineralis*, and the Powder of *Algorath*, are serviceable in external Application, by exhausting the Acids, and opening the Skin. But a Salivation would in all Probability ensue, should any of the acid Particles, when blended with the Mercury, re-enter into the Mass of Blood, which makes me affirm, that crude Mercury taken by the Mouth, is more effectual, certain, and expeditious.

In 1719, my Adjutant's Son in the Hospital of *Briancon* was sent me to *Turin*, afflicted with an universal Leprosy; his Head was in a very bad Condition, and his whole Body covered

vered with white Scales : I shewed him, in these Circumstances, to some of the Profession.

I took him to my House, and gave him a Pill every other Evening towards Bed-time. At six Weeks End his Head and Neck were as clean as a Pearl, and perfectly cured.

The Leprosy and Pox have a near Affinity to each other, according to the Opinions of most learned Men. Mercury has, at all Times been acknowledged for the Specifick in such Diseases, since it was first discovered and administered. And has certainly an absolute Power over these Ferments : 'Twere needless to illustrate its mechanical Operation upon these Poisons : It is too well known ever to be called in Question. This was the first Leper I ever had under my Care : This Disease though very formidable, gives way to Mercury rightly prepared, as readily as the slightest of them all.

In 1721, I was commanded by her Royal Highness to attend *Madam la Comtesse Busquet*, in the City of *Equiere*, who had been confined to her Bed for four Months by a violent and painful *Sciatica*. She could not stir in the least, without giving herself mortal Agonies, and being constrained to void her Excrements under her, a Mortification was to be feared upon her inward Parts ; wherefore, without delay, I proposed to her Physician the Use of my Mercury, which he very readily came into.

She

She had not taken above three Doses, before the Violence of the Pain was abated ; and after the Fourth, she felt no more of it : After the seventh she left her Bed, and began to walk : The vast Quantity of Phlegm which the first Doses of this Medicine discharged surprized both the Patient, and her Physician. The Patient wondered to find an Abatement of her Misery in Proportion to the Evacuation, which did not in the least weaken her ; and the Physician was at a Loss to account for such extraordinary Success ; which occasioned him to express his Surprize to me in a Letter. The Letter was read to her Royal Highness by my dear Friend M. *Ciconigni*, who was himself not a little pleased at the speedy and salutary Effect of so simple a Remedy, as well as at the tender and obliging Expressions of the Patient and the Physician.

The Gout in its Infancy, the Rheumatism, the *Sciatica*, and all Diseases of this Nature, are to be cured by swallowing crude Mercury. I am convinced, by Experience, that they are all of the same Nature, tho' they pass under different Names, and effect different Parts of the Body : As they are produced by one Cause, they are to be overcome by one Remedy ; and by that very kind of Mechanism which I illustrated before, in speaking of Acids.

The expeditious Action of Mercury on such minute Bodies cannot, in my Opinion, be otherwise accounted for ; since nothing is so soon

soon conveyed into the Blood, or to the Parts affected, which happens several Times in the Space of a natural Day. On this Score it comes to pass, that what it has begun in its first Circulation, it finishes in its subsequent ones. I grant, that it escapes partly by Perspiration and partly by Stool ; but then by repeating the Dose, the Operation is continued without Interruption ; otherwise the Acids which take up their Residence in the Pores and Membranes could not be dislodged, and comminuted, as it happens in *Sciaticæ* and Rheumatisms ; their Points standing on end, and being no Ways interwoven with any Substance to defend them ; when the nutritious Juice, comes loaden with Mercury to the Membranes, stuck full of those sharp *Spiculæ*, the small round Particles of the Mercury expand themselves over the Membranes, and having Solidity sufficient, shock, tear to Pieces, and destroy the aforesaid Points which afterwards regurgitate into the Veins. I can form no other Idea of the speedy Termination of this Sort of Diseases : Those who have a more extensive Understanding than mine, may possibly give a more rational Account of the Matter.

The Wife of Mr *Ressant*, a Bookseller in *Turin*, aged about 33, was sent to her Husband from *Briancon*, under a Complication of Diseases, which had eluded the Skill of the best Physicians in *Briancon* for four Years. Among other Complaints, she had a small Fever,

ver, a Difficulty of Breathing, a Pain in her Stomach, a very stinking Breath, and a monstrous Swelling of her right Thigh and Leg; for which last Disorder she had used diverse Sorts of mineral Waters, both by way of Baths and Fomentations; in a Word, she was pronounced incurable. Her Husband finding her in so miserable a Condition, had so much Confidence in me as to commit her entirely to my Care; and, indeed, it was with some Reluctance that I undertook the Cure.

However, having been convinced by Experience, that in these desperate Cases, especially, Mercury gives Proofs of its Force, Virtue and Efficacy, above all other Medicines; I no longer remained in Suspence, but gave her my Remedy without any other Preparation.

The first Doses had some comfortable Effects upon her; most of her Symptoms ceased; her Pulse was much mended, the Pain of her Stomach and the stinking Breath entirely disappeared; the Thigh and Leg were less painful, and their Magnitude considerably diminished. Thus she went on for sixteen Doses, when her *Menses* obliged her to desist; but afterward she resumed her Medicine, and without any Conflict was this formidable Coagulation of Humours dissolved; and the Liquors recovered their Fluidity after two and forty Doses of the Mercury. The Thigh and Leg were relaxed, the coagulated Matter now made fluid, returning with the Mercury into

the

the Blood : In short, in the Month of *May*, the present Year 1724, the Mercury excited a gentle Salivation : This was the only Time I ever knew it produce such an Effect, tho' I have given it above six Months together.

To enter rightly into the mechanical *Rationale* of this Matter, it should be observed, that in the Disorder of the Thigh and Leg, there was no Extravasation. The coagulated Liquors were entirely confined within the Glands, and the external Vessels, a Proof of which is, that notwithstanding the Size of those Parts, the Patient could still walk ; the Muscles being unaffected.

A Dissolution being once made in the Vessels and the Glands, it is natural enough, that the Liquor having recovered its Fluidity, should re-enter and mix with other Fluids, in the Course of Circulation.

But the subtile Parts of the Mercury being closely combined with what was dissolved, caused those Fluids to ascend, by which Means the Vessels of the Throat, which became distended therewith, and the Orifices of the salivary Ducts were strained and dilated, and afforded a Passage to the separated Humours ; and then the Thigh and Leg diminished considerably.

This salutary Flux lasted about eight Days, and re-established the Gentlewoman in a surprising Condition of Health : She is now actually under my Care, and I hope to reduce her Thigh and Leg to their natural State,

If crude Mercury did imbibe Acids, as many have imagined, it must, in this Case, have been sufficiently stocked with them, to have made Havock with the inward Parts of the Mouth in the Discharge ; whereas, nothing more was perceived than a small Heat. In these Diseases the morbidic Particles are not so pungent and corrosive as they are in Venereal Cases, which make the Bones carious, and destroy the Flesh, without the Assistance of any other Matter.

The thick viscous Matter which nourishes the Hair, being abundantly increased by the Obstructions in the Skin where it is planted, occasioned such a Plenty of it, that the whole Leg and Thigh were perfectly covered therewith : for which Reason I look upon the Malady of these Parts to have had its rise from the Viscidity of the Matter stagnating in the capillary Vessels and Glands of the Skin, which being inconceivably numerous, at last formed so considerable a Substance.

It may then be taken for granted, that Mercury, sooner or later, penetrates into, and breaks the Connexion of this Matter ; that it disengages them from the Acids, and so restores them to their original Fluidity.

If we consider the Effects of Mercury in one Cure, we shall be able to judge of its Effects in all others, though of a different Kind ; because in all its Variety of Operations and Productions,

Productions, it acts by the same Mechanical Laws.

I have, at this Time, under my Care, Diseases that are inveterate and difficult to cure. I administer this same Remedy in them all ; and from the Day I begin with it, I have Reason to hope for Success, although the common Methods in Practice have failed.

Respect forbids me to Name one of my Patients, and some other Discretion obliges me to conceal. But let the Reader judge of what may be done from what has been done : The Cures already related, are surprizing, and those I shall relate hereafter, will be no less. And now, I think, I have said enough to give an Idea of the Effects of this admirable Remedy.

The first Wife of M^r. *Roussseau*, in 1712, was afflicted for near four Months together with a Complication of Distempers. She was visited by many of our Physicians, who after they had carefully examined her Symptoms, were of Opinion that a *Solium* had brought her into a Consumption ; because she vomited constantly, every Day, after she had eaten. These Gentlemen agreed, that my Mercury was the only Medicine which could be of Benefit to her.

The very first Dose took off her Vomiting, and the Rest, which were Twelve in all, entirely recovered her.

Cases often occur, where it is almost impossible that the most accurate Physician should

not

not be mistaken. A Girl who wove Hair for my Perriwig-Maker in 1712, being about 15 or 16 Years old, was for three Weeks together blooded and purged, besides other Remedies and Operations, that were used to so little Purpose, that at last she was seized with a violent and frequent Hic-up, which prevented her from swallowing or retaining any Thing in her Stomach. She was given over by her Physician, who desired her Mother to send for a Priest to give her the Sacraments. In this Conjunction *M. de la Touche* came to me, and desired me to see the Girl. I went, and after I had seen her, and examined her Pulse, I thought I perceived in her Eyes some Symptoms of Worms. I took *M. de la Touche* Home along with me, and delivered to him a Dose of my Mercury, with Directions to give it her by Degrees, in four small Pills, with a little Wine. The first Parcel she took stopped the Hic-up, and she swallowed the others with Ease; soon after which she vomited up a Worm as thick as one's Finger, and half an Ell long, with a big Head: The Persons who attended her, to my great Vexation, threw it away. She was perfectly cured in a few Days.

Many Physicians look upon Worms of the Body with a Kind of Indifference; and esteem them serviceable in consuming certain Superfluities in our Bodies.

But after all, the more they multiply, and the more they increase in Bulk, the more Nourishment

ishment they require. If in such Cases a slender Diet should be ordered, they would entirely consume it ; and if that were too little to suffice, they would prey upon the Parts themselves.

Upon this Consideration, the best Way is to prevent their Increase, and drive such Animals out of the Intestines, the Nourishment of whose Bodies are the Destruction of our own.

Worms of the Stomach and Intestines are destroyed by Mercury. It not only kills them, but destroys the very Seeds of them. This all agree to, who have written of Mercury ; and Experience evinces the Truth of it.

Almost every Thing is full of Worms : Our Food abounds with them ; their Seeds get into our Bodies an infinite Number of Ways. They float in the Blood and other Liquors, in all Ages, Sexes and Constitutions, and devour indifferently what they meet with. But the *Solium* feeds on nothing by Chyle ; and therefore a Consumption is an inevitable Concomitant of this Creature.

The Worms of the Stomach and Guts deposite Seed and Excrements, which mixing with the Chyle, are carried into the Blood, and create Fevers of an uncommon Nature, either by Corruption, or by the Coagulation which their Acrimony occasions in the Blood.

In all these Cases, I believe nothing is so effectual as Mercury, on account of its separating from the Blood, and carrying away a-
along

long with it whatsoever is noxious : It promotes Perspiration, and by its Percussion and the Sphericity of its Particles, dissolves, separates, and subtilises all Manner of Coagulations, which may be reckoned the Source of most Fevers.

In short, whether the febrile Effervescence be kindled in the Blood by Worms, a wrong Use of Natural Things, an ill chosen Diet, or the Want of Perspiration, Mercury overcomes all. When it is well killed, and its Parts are divided as much as possible ; and in this Condition is conveyed into the Stomach, it is easily admitted into the lacteal Veins, and conveyed into the Mass of Blood.

Mr. *Lewenboeck* has observed, that the Blood consists of globular Particles, as well as Mercury : Wherefore 'twere impossible they should enter into such Contract with each other, as to be united.

The Motion of the Blood, and of the Lymph that accompanies it, causes these small Globules to strike one against another ; by which Shock reiterated, all the Particles both of the Mercury and the Blood are divided and subdivided to Infinity : 'Tis by such a Manner of Acting, that the Coagulations of the Blood are destroyed ; that they are rendered the more fluid, and less liable to occasion Obstructions in the smaller Vessels. The Globules of Mercury united with the Lymph, being exceeding smooth, and containing, in Proportion

tion to their Bulk, a very large Quantity of Matter, sooner insinuate themselves into all Places where the Velocity of their Motion carries them ; removing all Obstacles in its Course and dispersing every Thing that is unnaturally united ; which by the Motion communicated to it, is hindred from reuniting, and thus discharged through one of the Emunctories, according to the Inclination of Nature, or the Disposition of the Subject.

These Particles being, as I said before, united with the Lymph, render it more fluid, penetrating, active, sweet, and balsamick, and consequently more fit to increase the nutritious Juice in the several Parts of the Body, and more proper to repair the Losses sustained by the Violence of Diseases ; taking away, at the same Time, the fatal Causes which produced them.

If what I have observed of Mercury be true, it must be acknowledged that it has Nothing in it that is corrosive. If it be capable at any Time of assuming such Qualities, it must be when it is divested of its natural Figure and Motion.

It must therefore be the Violence of the Fire, which altering its Figure, renders it corrosive ; which is the Case when it is incorporated with Salt and Vitriol to make corrosive Sublimate.

If Mercury may be judged of from its Effects, surely crude Mercury has the best Title

to

to be called *Mercurius dulcis* ; for that which is prepared with Fire, and goes by that Name, is capable of uniting with Acids in the Body. So that to avoid the Danger of raising a painful Salivation, it must be given but in small Quantities, and that seldom : I have known the terrible Consequences of it upon a Lady of Distinction, who fell a Sacrifice to this Remedy.

When crude Mercury enters into the Body by Frictions, or Fumigations, it mixes with the Lymph ; but then it penetrates also into the Veins and Arteries, where it strikes against the arterial Blood, with a Direction contrary to the Course of it, and acts upon it in the Manner of a Bank, or Damm.

If the Blood and Spirits yield to such a Shock, their Motion must of Necessity be much weakened, and even suppressed as far as the Friction extends ; so that they will inevitably stand still, or move backwards : This Struggle therefore must produce such Symptoms as always attend an impeded Circulation, which I have seen many Instances of.

If it enters the Pores of the small nervous Fibres which terminate at the Skin, it will farther penetrate into the Trunks of the Nerves, and obstruct the Course of the animal Spirits, and occasion a Palsy.

These Effects are not produced by crude Mercury : 'Tis the Manner of applying it, which

which occasions these Extravagancies, besides many more which I could mention.

The Difference then is plain between crude Mercury transmitted through the Pores of the Skin, and taken by the Mouth ; for in this latter Way it intimately mixes with what it finds in the Stomach and Chyle ; it enters the Blood, and follows the natural and voluntary Motion of it, which it renders more fluid and subtile, by destroying the Obstacles which oppose its Passage. All this is effected with the utmost Gentleness and Expedition, without Constraint, Agitation, or Tumult.

Acid Spirits injected into the Veins, occasion terrible Symptoms, yet they are serviceable when taken in by the Mouth.

The Viper, which transmits its Poison into the Blood through a Puncture of the Skin, and excites such fatal Symptoms, is of no ill Consequence if eaten, but rendered wholesome by the Ferment of the Stomach.

Some Persons have endeavoured to explode the Use of crude Mercury, by bringing those Accidents upon the Stage which attend the Workers in mercurial Mines.

Mr. *Lemery* is of Opinion, that the Palsy, which affects these People, is produced from the Sulphurs which arise from the Mercury ; which entering the Pores, do fix in the Nerves, and obstruct the Passage of the animal Spirits.

If his Notion is Right, there is then great Reason indeed, to apprehend bad Consequences

quences from Frictions, and especially Fumigations.

There is no Absurdity in believing, that those Workmen, being continually surrounded with the volatile Vapours of Mercury, draw it in with the Air at their Nostrils ; presently after which they are elevated 'till they meet with Opposition from the internal Convex Part of the *Cranium*, whose Pores they cannot penetrate, and then fall down again like Water in a boiling Pot, when stopped by the Lid: These Vapours being at length united, from small Globules, which drop down again by their own proper Weight toward the *Basis* of the *Cranium*, and compress the Nerves in their Origin, and thus occasion a Palsy. The same Thing happens to *Gilders* for the same Reason, but more frequently : for they make Use of Mercury over a Fire, which elevates it more easily, so that they breathe in the very Substance of it.

Thus it appears, that this is not the Effect of any ill Quality of Mercury, but an Accident produced by the Compression of a different Body.

At the Time that I was Surgeon-Major of the Hospitals of *Briancon* and *Oulx*, we had at a favourable Season of the Year, many venereal Patients under a Salivation. I could not observe that the Boys who were appointed to attend them, and who constantly slept with

them, ever received the least Inconvenience by breathing in the mercurial Vapours.

I had a Captain under my Care at *Brianſon* in a *Volvulus*, whom I prevailed upon to ſwallow two Pounds of crude Mercury, which remained ſix whole Days in his Body, without doing him the leaſt Harm: And it is obſervable, that ſuch Perſons as have leaden Balls lying in their Limbs for many Years, and often for their whole Lives, never feel any Inconveniencies on that Score.

But after all this, it is not an eaſy Task to convince Mankind that crude Mercury is no ways miſchievous. Many believe it an abſolute Poiſon, and even affirm it to be the Cauſe of Ulcers of the Throat in Salivations; and if they ſpeak ſo favourably of it, as not to ſay that it is corroſive of itſelf, yet will they maintain that it becomes ſo when blended with the venereal Acids: This Opinion has been received and advanced by very famous Authors.

I think, however, that the contrary may eaſily be ſupported by the Help of a little Reflection.

The Ulcers attending the Throat of Perſons under Salivations, proceed, according to the Notion I have of the Matter, from the Acids contained in the Pocky Ferment: Mercury diſlodges it, ſets it in Motion, and conveys it along with the Lymph, 'till it has procured it ſome favourable Iſſue, either by the Mouth, by Stool, Urine, or Perſpiration.

It

It must be consider'd, that in Salivations, the acrimonious and corrosive Acids of the *Virus*, which are distributed throughout the whole Mass of Fluids ; as likewise those which are congested in Nodes, Pustules, Glands, Chancres, or Ulcers, are all conveyed into the salivary Canals, so that they may be discharged at the Mouth. These being thus reunited, 'tis natural enough that they should make Impressions on such delicate Parts as the Throat and the Mouth, and should lacerate, cut, and ulcerate them, by the Quantity of these sharp and corrosive little Bodies, without the Mercury's having any Share in the Matter, more than of giving them Motion sufficient in order to the obtaining their Discharge.

Mercury, when sent into the Body by Friction, gives no Part of the Liquors a different Turn from what they had before, as I have already remarked, and acts from the Circumference toward the Center, and determines the Lymph towards the Head and Throat, which becomes swoln by the Largeness of the Quantity poured in upon it from almost all Parts of the Body ; and it being too much to be contained in the Cavities of the Vessels, the Orifices of the salivary Ducts open and dilate, and so yield a Passage to this Abundance of the lymphatick Humour. But the Mercury having not circulated according to the natural Course of the Lymph, it is impossible that it

should by any rolling Motion, break or destroy the Points of the Acids, which therefore occasion very troublesome and painful Ulcers, and Lacerations in the Throat and Mouth.

The only Motion which the Lymph and Mercury have on this Occasion, is a simple Sublimation upwards, so that should the salivary Canals be totally stopped up, the Patient must be suffocated. It appears then, that in such a Conjunction, the Mercury and Lymph are as it were in a State of Rest ; that the subsequent Evacuation, and the running off of the Lymph and Mercury makes no Alteration in the Order of their Situation. If Mercury destroys the Points of Acids, it must circulate peaceably with them, by a continued and reiterated Motion ; which never happens when it is received into the Mass of Blood by Frictions or Fumigations, nor by any Preparation of Mercury, be it what it will. When the *Crisis* after Frictions is determined by Stool or Urine, the Mercury would make terrible Havock if joined with Acids ; Ulcers of the *Anus*, Bladder, and *Urethra* would be the inevitable Consequences of such a Union, which however do never happen.

If crude Mercury was capable of uniting with Acids, bad Symptoms would appear after Frictions, by the Quantity admitted into the Body. Those to whom I have given it by the Mouth for above six Months together, as in scrophulous Cases, where Acids abound, would,

would, if such a Union were possible, have undoubtedly been sensible of some Heat, or Excoriation ; which Complaint I never met with.

Mercury when it is sublimed, must be in a State of Rest, so that the Fire which is under it, may lay hold on its round Particles to raise them with itself, which is the Case when it is made use of by Gilders.

When crude Mercury is taken by the Mouth, although its Particles are exceedingly subtle and divided, notwithstanding the Purgatives with which it is mixed, it is soon communicated to the Liquors, and is in perpetual Motion ; for which Reason it cannot be sublimed : The Warmth of the Body helps to animate and increase its Motion, and causes it to penetrate every where ; it never quits the Liquors with which it is mixed, but in getting to the Emunctories.

Men of very great Skill, who have no consummate Knowledge of Mercury, are of Opinion that some Pounds of it may be taken at the Mouth, as in a *Volvulus*, without any ill Consequence ; but that it is very dangerous given in a lesser Quantity, because that then it may sublime by the Heat of the Body : This Opinion has prevailed with a great Number of Persons, and yet nothing can be more false.

M. *le Duc*, a Physician, whom I mentioned before, observed at *Smyrna*, that most of the Women that were desirous of looking hand-

some and fresh coloured, did frequently swallow two Drams of crude Mercury without any Mixture.

When some Pounds of it are taken inwardly, if it meets with no Obstacle in the Intestines, it quickly passes through, retaining the same Weight it had when it was taken. When it is swallowed in a small Quantity, it remains a longer time in the Body, and drives into the Intestines whatsoever it meets within the Stomach, that is greasy, viscous, and acid: It acts in the same Manner in the Intestines, mixes with the Substances, and rolls along with them, so that it cannot be sublimed, but carries along with it whatever is capable of rendering the Blood acrimonious, altering the Ferments of the Stomach, or causing a bad Digestion.

Some Persons have wrongfully conceived a Prejudice against it, and say that some People were attacked with such and such Complaints upon the Use of it, therefore it is undoubtedly dangerous: And some there are who cannot even bear the very Name of it; and would imagine themselves poisoned, should the least Quantity of it enter their Bodies.

This Error is received by a Sett of prejudiced Persons, who, though otherwise well qualified, judge and determine concerning the Effects of Mercury, without distinguishing in what manner it ought to be used; which notwithstanding makes a very considerable Difference.

If

If what I have said before be seriously considered, and what I shall say hereafter, it will appear that Mercury ought to be taken by the Mouth, just as Providence has given it us, or mixed with gentle Purgatives. }

It will also appear, that it can at no Time become corrosive, but when the Action of Fire deprives it of its Form and Motion; for then it may be linked and loaded with Acids, and constitute a Sort of Sublimate by such a Mixture. 4

Tho' crude Mercury is infinitely divisible, yet its most subtile Parts, even in Vapour, never lose the Rotundity of their Figure; they can never, without the Violence of Fire, become pointed, hooked, or keen; therefore they can neither lay hold of, or be held by any Thing, as long as they retain their spherical Figure, and continue polished and smooth; and the Heat of the Body is not sufficient to produce any Alteration on even the most fine and subtile of its Parts.

In the Ebullition and Fermentation which it undergoes when it is mixed with the Spirit of *Nitre*, *Aq. fortis*, and other Spirits, its Parts are only divided and rendered imperceptible, their spherical Figure is no ways destroyed; a Proof of which is, that these Spirits are rendered less pungent and corrosive by the Mixture; which shews that crude Mercury may be with great Justice called *Mercurius dulcis*.

I might satisfy my self with relating the salutary Effects which crude Mercury has produced within my Knowledge, without explaining the Mechanism of its Action, in which 'tis probable I may but indifferently succeed, having no chymical Principles to assist me ; but what has occurred to my Conception from meer Nature. However, I was of Opinion, that by shewing in what Manner it acts in the Body, I might dispel the Fears that have been raised of it, so that it might no longer be taken for a Poison, but for the most gentle and sovereign of all Remedies. Thus I have used my utmost Endeavour in the Justification of Mercury ; and to make it appear, that it is a Friend to Nature, and an Enemy to Diseases ; that by an admirable Mechanism, it dissolves, obsorbs, drives out, destroys and corrects all vicious and heterogene Matter ; that not only taken by the Mouth, but worn externally, its Effluvia are capable of securing the Body against malignant and infectious Air.

All Authors who have writ of the Pestilence, believe its Cause to be a Coagulation of the Blood ; if this Opinion be true, what Remedy can be more proper than crude Mercury.

M. le Begue in his Treatise upon the Plague of *Marseille*, says, that it has its Original from a Multitude of the Eggs of Worms which infect the *Saliva*, the Food, the Chyle, the

the nervous Juice, and finally, the solid Parts ; that these Eggs are hatched by the Heat of the Stomach, and then the young Worms do greedily devour a good Part of the Aliments, by which they increase to a certain Size ; and then excite the first Symptoms of the Pestilence.

These Worms are carried along with the Chyle, into the Blood, where they hinder Circulation.

According to this System, nothing can be more proper to destroy these Worms, than Mercury. In a Translation of *J. James Scheuchen*, he proposes *Ethiops Mineralis*, a Preparation of Mercury, in the Pestilence : He says, that according to the famous *M. Boyle*, the Pestilence seldom attacks Persons who live in the Neighbourhood of Mercurial Mines. Upon Consideration that Mercury is extremely volatile, and emits more Effluvia than any other Metal. I am of Opinion, that a Body prepared with my Mercury, or some other like it, which also carried about it little Bags of Mercury on the *Sternum*, and near the Emunctories, would be defended from infectious Air by the Atmosphere of mercurial Vapour surrounding it. ⊙

If there are Eggs in the Case, as in all Appearance there are, they must be Round, as well as the Volatile Particles of the Mercury, and therefore cannot unite. In the Collision of these small spherical Bodies, those of the Mercury

Mercury having the greatest Solidity, must break in Pieces, or dissipate the Others.

Those who reject this Way of reasoning, may have recourse to Antipathy, and then they'll be sure to meet with Matter enough to employ themselves.

These mercurial Vapours have the same Influence over the contagious Particles of the Small-Pox. I know several Persons who made Use of no other Preservative: Why then may it not have the same Effect on the pestilential Vapour? They differ but in regard to More or Less.

The *Arabian* Physicians have confounded these two Diseases together, and many others, have followed their Examples. Various Authors have fixed the Cause of the Small-Pox to a Heap of the Eggs of Worms hatched in the Body; that the Pustles are full of these little Worms, which gnaw away the Skin, and so leave their Marks behind them; that these Eruptions are analogous to those of the Pestilence; that the perspired Matter in those infected with this Distemper is sour, and so is their Breath, which smells of Worms, and is, strictly speaking, only the Seeds of Worms, which communicates the Disease to all Persons that are near.

This System which carries with it greater Probability than any other which has been advanced upon the Subject, justifies the Use of Mercury, as an internal Specific, and as
a Pre-

a Preservative, when worn on the Surface of the Body.

A most illustrious Sovereign Prince has worn it about him more than fifty Years, to preserve him from this Disease : He is now above Fourscore, and never had it.

I always wear Mercury about me : I am an old Man, yet never had the Disease.

These two Distempers are not the only ones which Worms produce : Many learned Men believe, that more cutaneous Diseases arise from Worms, or the Seeds of Worms, as well as malignant *Fevers*. According to *Nicholas Hartsocker*, the Pestilence, venereal Maladies, and all Manner of epidemical Diseases are occasioned by Worms, which are a certain Destruction to the Subject, unless some specific Remedy intervenes. Nothing is then more proper than Mercury, to cure the Pestilence, Small-Pox, and all Diseases produced by Worms, as it destroys the Putrefaction which hatches them, and dissolves the Coagulations which are reckoned inseparable from these Disorders : *Languors* and Weaknesses are the ordinary Concomitants of epidemical Diseases, which are the more certain Marks of Coagulation.

Dissolution sometimes accompany these Diseases, but it is very seldom : And there is no Difficulty in distinguishing these Causes one from another, by the Symptoms.

Mr.

Mr. *Newton*, in a Treatise of the Pestilence printed at *Utrecht*, asserts that Worms are the Cause of the Pestilence, that they fix in Cloaths, Linnen, &c. where they multiply and live a long Time, that when one wears such Cloaths, or opens such Packs, &c. as abound with them, they expand a Sort of little Wings, and fly into the internal Parts of the Body.

This Opinion, which, to most Men of Learning, appears highly probable, shews that the Remedy which I propose is better adapted to the Nature of the Distemper than any other, whether Worms, or a Coagulation of the Blood, or both, be its essential Cause, to examine into. Mr. *Chicoineau*, *Verny*, and *Soulier*, Physicians deputed by the Court for the Pestilence at *Marseille*, are of Opinion, that the Pestilential Virus is not of it self contagious, but only with Regard to the Disposition of the Subjects. Admitting this System, the Remedy which I propose, is sufficient to correct such ill Dispositions; and I would no scruple to make Use of the Amulet, where it but to delude the Imagination, and to procure a Tranquility, by dissipating the Fears which alone are capable of kindling the Disease.

These Gentlemen will persist in it, that the Plague and Small-Pox have a near Affinity to each other, that their Symptoms are almost the same, that what we call the Master-Pock, is a Sort of *Bubo*, or *Carbuncle*, and that
both

both these Diseases terminate in cuticular Eruptions.

The very judicious M. *Cicognini* has assured me, that in *Italy* it is customary to wear crude Mercury as a Preservative against noxious Vapours; and that the Women carry it about them to prevent the Jaundice.

A Gentleman of Veracity and Distinction told me, that his Mother was afflicted with very severe Attacks of a Jaundice, accompanied with *Deliriums* and Convulsions almost every Month; and that being one Day in this sad Condition, two Capuchins came to visit her, who sent for some crude Mercury, and hung it in a proper Box on her *Sternum*; upon which her Symptoms soon disappeared; and she wore it eighteen Months without any Return of her Disorder, but having lost it, she relapsed into the same Distemper: That she caused more of the Medicine to be inclosed for her, which she wore all the remaining Part of her Life, without any other Attack.

What may be inferred from all this? If the meer Vapour of two or three Drams of Mercury are sufficient to re-establish a Calm in the whole Œconomy, labouring under such Symptoms, and is able to prevent their Return; what may not be expected from it, taken in Substance, being mixed with gentle Purgatives, which evacuate nothing but what is vicious, and superfluous, without discharging the wholesome Humours, which is Truth in effect,

effect, notwithstanding it may purge more or less, according to the Disposition of the Subjects? Mercury communicates it self to the Chyle, the Blood, and finally to the Lymph, with which it associates, and as I have already observed, accompanies it in all Parts of the Body; and when it is arrived at the Pores of the Skin, its volatile Parts escape in a mercurial Perspiration, which meeting with the Vapour of that which is worn externally forms an Atmosphere capable of invironing the Body, and mundifying and clearing away whatsoever is vicious, malignant, and epidemical in the Air we breathe: Thus is one Part of the Mercury which is taken at the Mouth, voided by Stool, another Part circulates with the Lymph, and the other is carried off by Perspiration.

The Stomach, according to the Opinion of some of the Ancients as well as Moderns, is the Seat of almost all Diseases; it is likewise this Organ which receives the Remedies designed for their Cure.

When they are conveyed into this Part, they must of Necessity be mixed and blended with Ferments, which according to their Qualities, will render them either hurtful or useless.

Be it as it will, this Mixture increased or diminished, will always alter the Virtue of the Remedy, and frequently render its Effects bad or uncertain.

It

It has not the same Power over Mercury ; it remains unaltered in the Stomach, nothing is able to restrain or mix with it ; its separated volatile Particles unite with the Blood alone, changing neither their Form nor Nature. The Heat of the Body is not sufficient to sublime it; it continues the same ; and having circulated in the Mass of Blood, in order to attack and destroy the most dangerous Enemies of it, it retires in the same Form it entered, excepting that Part of it which goes off by Perspiration.

All this is performed insensibly, without Tumult, Struggling, or Pain. It dissolves the thick and viscous Matter which it meets with in the Stomach and Intestines, and destroys by its Percussion and the Motion of its Particles, all the indigested Matters which are collected on the Membranes, and gives them a Fluidity fit for Secretion : That which is mixed with the Blood, produces the same Effect in all Places to which the Lymph is conveyed ; removes all the Obstacles which oppose the Current of the Liquors.

By its Figure it opens, dissipates, divides, and disconcerts all unnatural Unions in the Body.

These divided and broken Matters are all conducted by a kind of *Crisis*, to the Emunctories of the Body : And thus it is that I explain my Notions of the Actions of Mercury in the Stomach, Intestines and Liquors.

It

It is certain that all the heterogene Matters which the Mercury has dislodged and broken, do follow the ordinary Course and Motion of the Fluids.

The more gross and thick Parts are conveyed into the Intestines, as useless and superfluous.

The more subtile Parts are sent to the excretory Glands ; and by the Rapidity of the Motion which the Mercury has communicated to them, they go off by Perspiration, and drag along with them whatsoever is vicious or foreign in the Glands.

All this is done by the Mercury which is in the Vessels, and circulates with the Fluids : But as the nutritious Juice, must of Necessity expand it self every where ; and that this Juice or Balm of the Blood must be impregnated with Mercury, it cannot avoid striking against the Acids which are collected in the Pores of Membranes, in *Sciaticæ*, Rheumatisms, and other Pains of the muscular Parts.

Mercury must therefore break off their Points, and by its Motion and Figure destroy them ; nothing in Nature being capable of producing the same Effect.

Behold then how Mercury comes to be an *Absorbent* and a *Disolvent*.

It absorbs, without loading it self with Acids, or any other Substance ; and it dissolves without having the least Degree of Heat.

† A Lord

† A Lord of the first Quality in our Court, who honours me with his Friendship, was pleased to read over my Treatise on Mercury in Manuscript, started to me a very judicious Objection, which gave Occasion to the short Discourse which I am going to subjoin.

You assert, says he, that crude Mercury is communicated to the Blood and Liquors; and yet as soon as it gets into the Stomach, incorporated with your Pills, they are dissolved: The Mercury then quitting the Ingredients with which it was mixed, all its divided Particles re-unite and form a Globe, which cannot remain long in the Stomach, but passing the *Pylorus*, enters the Intestines, and is discharged by the *Anus*; so that none of this Mercury can enter into the Mass of Blood by the Lacteals.

I agree, replied I, that the Pills are soon dissolved by the Humidity of the Stomach, and the warm Liquor in which they are swallowed. But then it must be considered, that the Mercury is very minutely divided in the Pills; that during the Time of their Dissolution, the Degree of Heat which is in the Stomach, is exactly sufficient to evaporate the most volatile Particles of the Mercury: Which quit the Substances that withheld them, and insinuate themselves into the Orifices of the lacteal Veins, whose Figure is exactly adapted to receive

† *Le Marquis de Rivarole.*

receive them ; thus are they carried into the Blood, and move with it in its Circulation. What makes me conjecture this to be true, is that I have observed, that in Subjects where the Stomach is loaded with a viscid Matter, which lines its internal Membrane, and closes up the Orifices of the lacteal Vessels ; these little Globules disengaging themselves during the Time of the Dissolution, and not being able to enter the Vessels, do strike against this Matter, divide, subtilise and loosen them : By this Concussion and the Weight of the Matter which falls to the Bottom of the Stomach, a gentle Vomiting is sometimes excited, much to the Patient's Advantage ; but it is seldom more than the first Dose which produces this Effect.

Whether it be occasioned by this Matter or not, it is certain that the subtile Particles of Mercury are soon communicated to the Mass of Blood. The sudden Effects of it in Tumours, Obstructions, the Gravel, Gout, *Sciatica*, Rheumatism, &c. and all cutaneous Diseases are sufficient to convince us of this.

For the more clear Understanding the Subtility of the volatile Particles of Mercury, we need only consider the Minuteness of the Ramifications of the sanguiferous and lymphatic Vessels, into which it insinuates itself, and mixes with those Liquors.

An Anatomist shewed me several Membranes, some of which were as fine as a Spider's

der's Web, whose Vessels he had injected with so great Art that I was astonished at his Dexterity and Patience : By the Assistance of a Microscope an infinite Number of small Vessels might be discerned within the Compass of four Fingers breadth, two hundred of which, if put together, would scarce exceed the Magnitude of a Hair.

By this appears the Necessity of keeping the Humours in a fluid State, how easily Coagulations, Impediments, and Obstructions may be formed.

It will occasion no Surprise that I assert, that the subtile Particles of the Mercury penetrate into the finest Ramifications of the Vessels, since Mercury inclosed in a Quill sealed up, will nevertheless perspire and escape through the Pores of the Quill, which are utterly imperceptible.

The *Aq. Hermetica* shows the Subtility of the volatile Particles of Mercury ; which although it be boiled ever so many times in the Water, and the Water be impregnated with its subtile Particles, yet is its Weight not sensibly diminished.

I have heard, though never made the Experiment, that if a Person keeps the End of his Finger on crude Mercury a good while together, holding in his Mouth, at the same Time a Piece of Gold ; the Gold shall thereby alter its Colour, without any preceptible Diminution of the Mercury.

These

These are Evidences of its prodigious Volatility, and that nothing but Gold can retain its subtile Particles ; whether the Figure of the Pores of that Metal be disposed to receive it, which seems most probable, or that there is a certain Analogy between these two Metals which constrains them to attract each other. It penetrates the cuticular Pores, with as little Difficulty, insinuating and communicating it self internally. It is notorious, and too often happens, that mercurial Applications, designed for the Dissolution of Tumours, do raise Salivations, to the Surprize of the Practitioner, who will be sure for the Future to make use of them with greater Caution than before.

It may be objected, that Mercury worn by way of Amulet should, for the same Reason, produce the same Effect, and especially since so subtile a Vapour is capable of penetrating with great Facility.

It is true, that it penetrates, that it renders the Lymph more fluid, and consequently occasions the Person to spit more easily and more copiously : It has produced this Effect, upon my self and others ; but this Evacuation is beneficial and salutary, and cannot be called a Salivation.

This simple Vapour has neither Substance nor Force sufficient to check the Course of the Blood : It is a kind of subtile Fume, which gives Way without Resistance, which penetrates

penetrates the Liquor without struggle, and follows their natural Motion, and which finally can never produce any noxious Effect.

On the contrary, when it is applied externally, in Unguents or Plaisters, it is admitted through the Pores in Substance; and is then capable of opposing the natural Course of the Fluids, as far as it extends; which in some Subjects frequently excites a Sublimation and a real Salivation.

It may be said, that the Elevation of the volatile Particles of Mercury; from the Stomach, is a Sublimation; and yet I have said that it cannot be sublimed in the Body, when taken at the Mouth: Here seems to be a Contradiction.

The Observations which I have made on Mercury, when taken at the Mouth, could never persuade me, that it could be so far sublimed as to rise up to the Head, which I call a real Sublimation: except in a few very particular Cases; for Example, that of *Mc. Ressent.*

I only believe that its volatile Particles may be so far elevated in the Stomach, as to mix with the Chyle after Digestion, and be conveyed with it into the Lacteals.

When it enters these small Veins, it pursues its Course with the Chyle, and is then no longer susceptible of Sublimation, being mixed with a Fluid which serves it as a Vehicle.

This

This Objection has occasioned all these Remarks, which have carried me a little from my Subject.

The *Crisis* excited by Frictions, which is made by the Mouth, cannot be performed without straining the Frame of Nature: It is shameful, odious, painful and dangerous; and requires the most diligent Attendance and Precaution. To procure the desired Benefit from a Salivation, it must be carried to Excess. If the Patient be weak, you must restrain his Flux, and in thus favouring him, your End is lost. All that you have done, and he has undergone, will make the Extirpation of the Disease more difficult and obstinate.

These imperfect Cures add Strength and Vigour to the *Virus*, the Patient becomes disheartened, and unwilling to expose himself a second Time to the Uncertainty and Danger of such a Method; and should the Flux be raised to such a Degree as is requisite to exterminate the Disease, he is then in the utmost Peril of sinking under it.

It is a Violation of the Mouth, to subject it to a Function so disagreeable, and so unworthy of it.

It should seem to me more conformable to Reason and Nature to chuse out in its stead an Emunctory which Nature has designed for the most vile and abject Offices.

The

The Intestines and *Anus*, are the proper Outlets to the Filth of the Body : Reason directs the same Road to me when I undertake the Cure of Venereal Disorders with my Mercury, as likewise of all other Distempers which arise from Acids.

This Mercury being mixed with Purgatives, the Whole is determined by Stool ; it being taken at repeated Intervals, the former Doses are Preparatives to those which succeed ; they begin to effect a Dissolution of the Humours, and the subsequent Ones do with Ease procure them to be evacuated.

Thus you have a kind of Flux by the *Anus*, which may be continued at Pleasure, and I have many Reasons to believe it preferable to the other.

It will be found extreamly commodious for such Persons as desire a Cure to be wrought in the utmost Privacy, or Restriction from their usual Way of living : It will answer both their Ends, and the Cure will be performed without the least Danger, in a gentle and easy Manner.

The bad Preparations of Mercury, used internally, and the small Advantage accruing from them, have brought Salivations into Vogue : Those who have been cured by this Method, have extolled the Excellence of this Remedy ; those who have died under it, could tell no Tales, and those who have failed in Cure, have thought proper to decry it, believ-

H

ing

ing, that their Disorder was above the Reach of Mercury. And indeed, the different Opinion of Physicians concerning its Virtues, Nature, and Use, raised a Multitude of Doubts for want of Understanding it rightly.

Some praise, and others condemn it : One is for giving it Crude, another looks upon it as a Poison unprepared. It has been disguised under various Forms, yet when you deprive it of its Figure and Motion, you rob it of its Force and Virtue.

When taken at the Mouth, in the Manner I give it, the Impurities of the Body are discharged the same Way with the Excrements.

The Intestines, to answer these Ends without Pain, are lined with a Mucilage, which defends them from being stimulated by the acid, bilious, and corrosive Matter, which passes through them in order to be discharged. And for this Reason it is, that the venereal *Virus*, evacuated this Way, produces no mischievous Consequences.

I shall, doubtless, be told, that Part of the mercurial Vapour which I suppose to inviron the Body, mixing with the Air we breathe, must of Necessity, be inspired into the Lungs.

This is indisputably certain and inevitable ; but it will there perform the Part of a Remedy, and a Preservative against Corruption ; will render the Respiration easy, by dividing whatever was tenacious in the Lungs ; and may be useful in *Asthma*, as I have often experienced,

perienced, though the Effect will be much increased by the internal Use of it. If it should happen, which it very rarely does, that the Workers in mercurial Mines should be sometimes disordered, it should be considered, that they work under Ground, where the Air is extremely loaded with volatile Mercury, and that they hardly breathe any thing else: However, great Numbers continue their whole Lives, in those Places, without receiving the least Damage.

Those who have no ill Apprehensions of Mercury, but with Regard to the Salivation which it raises, may lay that Fear aside when they take it rightly prepared; it being checked and restrained from doing any Mischief, and may be taken for a Year together with the utmost Safety.

Therefore being fully convinced of its good Effects from Experience, I contrived a System by which I explained to my self the Manner how these Consequences were brought about.

And finally, I am confirmed in this Opinion, that the whole Force and Virtue of Mercury consists in its Volatility, its Figure, and its Motion: Whether I have justly determined its Manner of acting or not, it is full Satisfaction to me, that I have been able to convince the avowed Enemies of Mercury, of its Goodness, Use and Virtues.

If my Notions are Wrong, I am only to

be blamed, for I have borrowed none of them from any Author : If Mercury has been treated on in the same Manner I have done, that Book never came to my Knowledge. Experience has been my Master, my Director, and my Guide, as well in this, as in all that I have, at any Time, communicated to the Publick.

I am apt to believe, that no Person before me, ever made Use of it for so long a Time, and on so many different Occasions ; and I cannot but think, that if such a Thing as an universal Medicine be at all to be obtained, it must be from Mercury.

The Difference of Climates, of Seasons, of Temperaments, of Ages, of Sexes, of Diseases internal or external, varies not the Efficacy of this Remedy : It sooner, or later produces such Consequences as are ever salutary. This seems somewhat to favour the Opinion of those who believe that all Diseases accident to Mankind, are produced from one Cause: If this Opinion be just, then one Remedy may cure them all.

The different Effects, and the different Diseases occasioned by this Ferment, may depend intirely on the different Dispositions which it meets with in the Subjects.

Many Things concur to make this Difference in the Temperaments : The Influences which predominate at the Time of Conception, or Birth, Climates, Air, and Food, do all determine

mine the Inclination, the Disposition, the Strength, the Weakness, the Virtues, the Vices, and the different Qualities of the Blood and Humours.

There are some Diseases Hereditary; others peculiar to certain Countries. There are Disorders which are contracted by a wrong Use of natural Things, too much, or too little Exercise, and being accustomed to certain Liquors.

About twenty-four Years ago I was commissioned by my Royal Mistress to visit *M. le Marquis de Luce*, who was dangerously wounded: The Weather being, at that Time, exceeding hot, I drank plentifully of a certain black Wine of that Country, which being new and crude, gave such an Acidity to my Blood, that in fourteen or fifteen Days it rendered the Lymph so thick and fizy, that the tartarous Parts of the Blood, being of a sandy Nature, were so concerted and united thereby, as to form little Stones, which I believed would prove fatal to me. I was perfectly cured of this Complaint by crude Mercury, all other Remedies proving ineffectual.

This Sketch of a Theory, which Mercury gave me occasion to offer, (its volatile Particles having elevated me quite above my Sphere) gives me a Suspicion, that besides the universal Ferment, there is another particular Ferment produced from Combination of several Seeds fermented together, which have giv-

en Rise to a vicious and contagious Venom, whose Impressions are communicated from Generation to Generation.

The Ancients had not the least Notion of such a Ferment. It escaped the Sagacity even of the great *Hippocrates* ; though the Leprosy, so common in his Days, was produced by it, being according to several Authors, no other than an inveterate Pox.

As the Seed was first infected with this *Virus*, some are of Opinion, that it can never be entirely destroyed, but that it will descend to Posterity for ever ; that it multiplies, more or less, according to the Disposition of Subjects ; that it is capable of being communicated a thousand Ways, without the Violation of Chastity : That it is difficult to meet with a Family which have not derived from their Ancestors some Sparks of this Evil, which is grown very common since Mothers have left off suckling their own Children ; that this Leaven lies disguised under various Forms, and frequently puzzles the Physician in his Judgment and Prognosticks, that it may spare the Father and afflict the Son ; that it may affect the Glands, and continue there a long Time in Repose ; that certain Dispositions may put it in Motion, so that it shall re-enter the circulating Fluids, and produce Gouts in the Joints, Rheumatisms in the muscular Parts, Gravel in the Kidneys, *Schrophula* in the

the Glands, Cancers in the Breast, Obstructions in the *Visera*, Scurfs, Itch, Ulcers, Leprosies, &c. most of which Diseases are the real Posterity of the Pox.

In such a Conjunction, a judicious Physician is ashamed to propose to his Patient the Use of a Remedy which implies so ignominious a Disease, when he is well assured, that it cannot be the Fruit of his own Debauches: The very mention of Mercury, will carry a Horror along with it: And thus is he deprived of a certain Relief, and must be contented with a palliative Cure.

Thus do a great Number of afflicted Persons languish out a tedious Length between Diseases and Remedies, and become incurable in the End.

Experience adds an Authority to this Way of Reasoning, and at the same Time shews, that Mercury being beyond all Contradiction, a Specific in the Cure of the Pox, must likewise remove all other Complaints produced from the same Cause; and if the Cause of such Complaints is capable of being destroyed, it is this alone that has Power sufficient to do it: Numerous are the Remedies which may restrain and palliate the Symptoms, but nothing but Mercury will eradicate the Principle from which they arise.

What is surprizing in the crude Mercury, which I give by the Mouth, is, that the Gentleness

tleness with which it acts, seems inconsistent with the salutary, and speedy Effects which it produces ; and that without the least unlucky Accident, which cannot be affirmed of any other Medicine.

The more the Patient takes of it, the more will he find himself advance in Strength, and a good Plight of Body.

*YK
V3* The Thing will appear very possible, upon an impartial Consideration, that the Mercury insinuates itself very speedily into the Liquors, and renders the Blood more fluid, and more fit to be conveyed into the minutest Vessels, by the Way of Circulation, in order to communicate Nourishment to the several Parts of the Body ; that it destroys all Obstructions and Obstacles ; that it opens the Tubes, and the depuratory Canals ; that it facilitates the menstrual Discharge in Women ; that it removes every Thing that might hinder the Distribution of the nutritious Juice, and the natural Course of the Spirits and Fluids ; that it destroys and absorbs the Acids which occasion Leanness, and are the Foundation of a great Number of Infirmities ; and evacuates every Thing that is heterogenous and vicious.

These are my Notions of the mechanical Action of Mercury on vicious Ferments, that it may be administred without Danger in the most desperate Cases, as well as in the most simple.

simple. For Example. The Apoplexy and Palsy being produced from a too thick Blood, and from viscuous Humours stagnating in the Brain, the Mercury restoring the Blood to its native Fluidity, and destroying the Viscosities, a free Circulation of the Liquors and Spirits must ensue. A Cataract is caused by a foreign Matter coagulated by Degrees between the chrystalline Humour, and the *Uvea*, or by a Thickness of the Fluids in the Chrystalline, closing up, at last, the Aperture of the Pupil.

There is no Doubt but this Dissolvent would dissipate such a Coagulation, if it were timely applied.

A *Gutta Serena* is an Obstruction in the Optick Nerve, caused by a Substance of the same Nature; the same Remedy would probably succeed:

In short, all Parts of the Body, in healthful Persons, without Exception, are equally penetrated by Mercury: In them it acts the Part of a Friend and Benefactor: and to diseased Persons, it is a Restorer and a Corrector of the Causes of their Complaints.

What renders it extremely agreeable, is, that during its Use, the Patient enjoys a perfect Tranquility; it acts without occasioning any Conflict or Disgust.

This should make it seem probable, that it is pleasing and delightful to Nature; since, by its Means she is relieved without suffering any

Alteration, or Disorder in her usual Functions.

There can be no greater Proof than this, that Nature is an Enemy to Violence ; of which I have endeavoured to convince all young Surgeons in my former Treatise of the Cure of Wounds. All these Conclusions and surprizing Operations are wrought without Violence, and without Noise ; she subdues every Thing gently ; she nourishes all Things, produces all Things, preserves all Things, increases all Things, without subjecting her Actions to our View. The prudent Physician should be directed by her, and imitate her in the Cure of Diseases.

I have seen such a Method of Practice pursued, by the learned and judicious M. *Cicognini*, Counsellor and first Physician to her Royal Highness. I am obliged to his Merit, and to Truth, for this Authentick Declaration, having been an Eye-Witness to his Practice with several Patients, whom he cured without any Medicines, by observing the Motions of Nature as she acted of herself, when she was so inclined, or able ; and lending her his Assistance when she stood in need of it.

This Treatise, I am sensible, will seem tedious : My Subject has carried me beyond what I intended ; I think, however, that there is nothing in it, from which some Advantage may not be drawn. I have fallen into Repetitions

tions through the Weakness of my Capacity endeavouring to support a Fact which I believed to be entirely New, without any manner of Assistance from other Languages.

I was sensible enough, that I should meet with Opposition, either from Envy, or Prejudice, there being Persons enough in the World who are sworn Enemies to Novelties, and who, to save themselves the Fatigue of thinking, are resolved to tread in the Paths of Antiquity, Right or Wrong, and to condemn, without Appeal, every Thing that is not of that Stamp.

How, say they, can an illiterate Practitioner, have the Assurance to patronize a Remedy which the most famous Authors have rejected? *Fernelius* rejected it because he knew nothing of it: What precipitate Rashness was this!

Well, say they, Physick and Surgery have several Centuries been in Possession of a great many excellent Remedies: Must these be given up a Sacrifice to Mercury, and upon the Credit of some Cures which were performed by Chance? Because his former Work, was suffered to go unpunished, does he imagine, that this shall escape without being censured and exploded? Though the Rage of such an Outcry may be thought sufficient to demolish both the Author and his System, yet it does not give me the least Apprehension: I allow, that Faults
deserving

deserving Censure, and faulty Expressions may be found in this Treatise, which I did not design for a Piece of Eloquence.

I am, however, in Hopes, that the Force of Truth, and the Reflections which Men of Reason shall make upon this Subject, will be sufficient to justify me, and protect this Treatise of Mercury, which is the Result of a long Experience ; and that this Remedy will, some time or other, have the Preference beyond almost all the Remedies that are in Use, for the Good and Benefit of Mankind.



A D -



A D D E N D A.

*The Substance of several Letters
sent to the Author, since the Pub-
lication of the last Edition, with
farther Remarks.*

S I R,



‘ **T** HOUGH I am a Sranger
‘ to the Nature of *Quicksilver*,
‘ and the Manner of its Opera-
‘ tion, I am so fully convinced
‘ of its Excellency, from Expe-
‘ rience, that I should think my self un-
‘ grateful

grateful to the Almighty, and unjust to You
 and Mankind, if I should be silent amidst
 the Clamours and Artifices used to lessen
 your Reputation, and to deter the World
 from reaping the Benefit of One of the best
 Remedies in Physick. I have long made
 frequent Experience of it in my own Family,
 particularly to a Niece of mine, who
 from a Fever, which she was Annually subject
 to, was so reduced, that Her Life was
 despaired of, 'till by taking *Quicksilver*, by
 your Advice, for fourteen Mornings together,
 and afterwards *Mynsicht's Elixir of Vitriol*,
 with frequent bleeding, She was, by God's
 Blessing, restored to, and still enjoys a perfect
 State of Health. I had likewise a Nephew
 who was in a most languishing Condition for
 three Weeks, his Body being distorted in such
 a Manner, that his Shoulder and Hip were
 almost drawn together. No Assistance could
 be found, 'till, by your Direction, he took
Quicksilver, which at thrice taking, set him
 perfectly Strait. If you think the Publication
 of this will be of any Service, you have my
 Consent to act as you please, who am,

Sir,

Your most obliged

Humble Servant,

John Pott.

London, March

10, 1732.

To

(183)

To Dr. Thomas Dover.

S I R,

‘ I Had the Gout in my Stomach and Bow-
‘ els for so considerable a Time, that I was
‘ attended by two Physicians for six Weeks,
‘ who gave me all the warm Medicines they
‘ could contrive, so, that I was, at length,
‘ brought to such extreme Faintings and ex-
‘ cessive Sweats, that I wetted a Pair of Sheets
‘ in an Hour. A worthy neighbouring Gen-
‘ tleman, hearing of my miserable Condition,
‘ payed me a Visit, and persuaded me to
‘ take two Ounces of *Crude Mercury*, I fol-
‘ lowed his Advice, and found Reliet by it,
‘ in the Space of four Hours, and in three
‘ Days, all the Gouty Matter was thrown
‘ into my Feet. I continued the Medicine,
‘ and have ever since enjoyed a good State of
‘ Health.

I am,

Sir,

your humble Servant.

Calne in Wiltshire,

April 20, 1733.

Harvey.

To Dr. Dover in London.

S I R,

‘ A Gentleman lately put a Book into my
‘ Hands, published against the Use of
‘ *Quicksilver*, I think it a Boldness in the Au-
‘ thor,

' thor, considering the living Witnesses that
 ' have received such Benefit from it, when no-
 ' thing else would afford them Relief. I have
 ' been troubled with an *Asthma* from my In-
 ' fancy, and have had the Opinion of the
 ' most eminent Physicians, without receiving
 ' the least Benefit. My Fits were so violent
 ' for three Weeks, that I was not able to go
 ' to Bed for two or three Days and Nights.
 ' On the Twenty-first of *April* last, I took an
 ' Ounce of *Quicksilver*, and have since continued
 ' it, and have been so happy from *June* last, as
 ' not to be the least sensible of an *Asthma*,
 ' notwithstanding I have often taken some se-
 ' vere Colds in the Winter. I take the Li-
 ' berty of giving you this Trouble, for the
 ' Benefit of other Sufferers, lest they should
 ' be deterred from so beneficial a Remedy to
 ' Mankind. I need not inform you Sir, of
 ' the Safety of *Quicksilver*; but assure you, I
 ' always lived freely in the Absence of my
 ' Fits, yet never knew what it was to enjoy
 ' my Health before. I thought my self ob-
 ' liged to return you my hearty Thanks, to
 ' whom I owe my present happy Condition,
 ' and shall always be ready to acknowledge it.

I am,

Sir,

your most obliged
bumble Servant.

Lewsham, Feb.

14, 1732--3.

Will. Moses.

To

To Dr. Dover in London.

S I R,

I Send you my Case I promised, a deplorable One formerly, but, thanks be to God, at present, so much mended, and the Means of Relief so much in my own Power, that I live comfortably, in Comparison of the long Time I was afflicted with an *Asthma*. It is about twenty-five Years, since it was first occasioned by a violent Cold and Catarrh, and the Misfortune of ill Advice confirmed it. At first, I had it chiefly in Town, and in the Winter ; but the Summer, and the Country always relieved me, for the Space of two or three Years. At length my Distemper became Periodical, and varied a little at all Seasons. It was of the flatulent Kind, always attended with a Fever, and sometimes with Convulsions. To relate all my Sufferings, and the Methods taken for my Relief in this unhappy Condition, would be tedious. I was so ill, in short, that I went through long Courses of Physick, at all Hazards, and by many indiscreet Prescriptions of my own, soon reduced an active and vigorous Constitution, to an inactive, and weak One. At length observing, that a moderate Quantity of solid Food, and spirituous Liquors was most agreeable to my Distemper, I began to refrain them,

and

and drank Water with my Wine. This was
 of infinite Service, not only when the *Asth-*
ma was upon me, but at other Times ; the
 more strictly I observed it, the weaker I
 found the Attacks of the Disease. I was
 pleased with this Experiment, when I was
 advised to add the Use of *Belloste's* Pills to
 it, which proving beneficial, I learned to take
crude Mercury, and prefer it to *Belloste's*
 Pills, by reason of their purging Quality.
 I tried the *Æthiops Mineral* upon this Ac-
 count, but was obliged to reject it for *crude*
Mercury, which I have more constantly tak-
 en since *May* last, sometimes half an Ounce
 Night and Morning, sometimes an Ounce
 in the Morning only, sometimes allowing a
 Fortnight, or a Month's Intermiſſion ; but
 have continued taking it for two Months to-
 gether. At present, I take it either occasi-
 onally, that is, at the first Appearance of
 an *Asthmatick* Symptom, which always hap-
 pens after overloading my Stomach, or from
 a large Quantity of Strong Meats, or Li-
 quors ; or else I take two or three Doses in
 a Fortnight, by way of Prevention. I took
 an Ounce last Night, and another this Morn-
 ing, and can truly say, that by God's Bleſ-
 sing, a low Life, and *crude Mercury*, I
 have slept comfortably in my Bed every
 Night, except One or Two, for these two
 Years passed. My Fits are considerably di-
 minished : I have expectorated more freely,
 and

' and vastly less than I used to do. But what
 ' is most remarkable, and gives me the great-
 ' est Encouragement, is, that I have lost that
 ' feverish Disposition I had been afflicted
 ' with so many Years, and the usual Periods
 ' of my *Asthma*. I think I have now tired
 ' your Patience, but was willing you should
 ' know what Trials I have made of *crude*
 ' *Mercury*, to prove its inoffensive Quality
 ' at least, if not the Efficacy of it in my Dis-
 ' temper. It has not perfectly cured me, and
 ' perhaps never may ; but as long as I can
 ' keep my former Fears at a comfortable
 ' Distance, and check them in the very Bud
 ' by the Use of it, I have no Reason to dis-
 ' continue, and heartily wish You Success, in
 ' the Prescription of it, and am

Sir,

your most humble

April 19, 1733.

at Shenfield.

Servant.

I. La Porte.

To Dr. Dover.

S I R,

' I Should be Ungrateful, not to acknow-
 ' ledge the great Benefit I have received,
 ' from your Advice in taking *crude Mercury*.
 ' I have been many Years troubled with Scor-
 ' butick Humours, and especially last Sum-
 ' mer ; but the Humour was so Violent in
 ' the

the Beginning of the Winter, upon my
 Right Knee, that I could hardly walk, and
 an Uneasiness at Night in turning my self in
 Bed. Immediately after my Application to
 you, about *Christmas* last, I took an Ounce
 of *Mercury* every Morning by your Direc-
 tion and found my self abundantly Better,
 after taking twelve or fourteen Ounces, and
 perfectly recovered before I had taken two
 Pounds: all the Stiffness, Pain, and Uneasi-
 ness in my Knee, was removed, and my Leg
 as Strong as ever it had been before. I was
 liable, for several Years, to a white Scurf on
 my Hands in the Spring, which perfectly
 disappeared by continuing the *Crude Mercur-*
ry. I have taken five Pounds of it, and be-
 lieve it to be the best Remedy in obstinate
 chronick Diseases, and nothing more plea-
 sant and agreeable. I have not been the
 least Sick or Uneasy, or so much as confin-
 ed for a Quarter of an Hour, or interrupt-
 ed from any Business, or Pleasures. I hearti-
 ly wish you equal Success with other Pa-
 tients, and am,

Your most obliged
 humble Servant.

Piccadilly, May

10, 1733.

Benj. Benson.

P. S. *Henry Boffenbury*, my Servant,
 has received great Benefit from *Crude Mer-*
cury, he has been afflicted with violent Pains
 in

' in his Head and Eyes, for three or four
 ' Years past, Pains and Contractions in his
 ' Legs, a voracious Appetite, generally Fe-
 ' verish, with a violent Pain in his Back and
 ' Kidneys. He has taken about three Pounds
 ' of *Quicksilver*, which has thrown off abun-
 ' dance of Gravel and slimy Matter, and has
 ' perfectly recovered him to his Health and
 ' Strength.

To Dr. Dover.

S I R,

' **T**HE Benefit I have received from *crude*
 ' *Mercury*, and the Opinion I have of
 ' its Excellency in all Chronick Diseases, would
 ' make me unpardonable, should I refuse the
 ' Publication of my own Case, in the Work
 ' I am informed you are preparing for the
 ' Press. My Illness, Sir, originally proceed-
 ' ed from a Cold taken by lying in damp
 ' Sheets, the Consequence of which was a
 ' feverish Indisposition. I applied my self
 ' for Relief to Dr. *Mullens* of *Salisbury*, a
 ' Gentleman I greatly esteem, and who is ge-
 ' nerally successfull in his Practice. He treat-
 ' ed my Fever with Salts and a cool Regi-
 ' men ; but instead of yeilding to such Me-
 ' dicines, my Case became Hyfterick, with
 ' violent Pains in my Bowels and Stomach.
 ' In this Condition, I came to *London*, and
 ' put my self under the Care of Dr. *Mead*,
 ' and

' and Dr. *Monro*, who, from the just Emi-
 ' nency they have both acquired in their Pro-
 ' fession, and my intimate Friendship with
 ' the Latter, made me flatter my self with
 ' Relief from my Pains. These Gentlemen
 ' were of Opinion, that my Fever was only
 ' Symptomatical, and that my Distemper a-
 ' rose from some Obstructions in the secreto-
 ' ry Vessels : which Opinion was since justi-
 ' fied by the Event ; for my feverish Symp-
 ' toms disappeared, and my Spirits were more
 ' free, by the Use of warm Medicines ; but
 ' my Pains still continued. I was attended
 ' by such a Costiveness, or rather a total
 ' Stoppage, that I had no Evacuation, unless
 ' it was caused by the Methods used in such
 ' Cases. I grew exceedingly emaciated, and
 ' could hardly walk cross my Room without
 ' Difficulty. To remove which, my good
 ' Friend Dr. *Bave* thought proper to give me
 ' the Bark, and either that Drug, or my Dis-
 ' temper, soon took away the Use of my
 ' Hands. I drank the Bath Waters regular-
 ' ly for ten Weeks, and cannot say they dis-
 ' agreed with me, but I grew Weaker. All
 ' my Complaint continued, with the Addition
 ' of a violent Pain in the Soles of my Feet,
 ' and Palms of my Hands, and such a Numb-
 ' ness, that I was hardly sensible of any Cir-
 ' culation of Blood through them. This was
 ' my Condition, when a Friend prevailed up-
 ' on me to try *Quicksilver*, and I took an
 ' Ounce

‘ Ounce every Morning for about twelve
 ‘ Days. The Third Morning, I began to
 ‘ find my Fingers and Toes tingle, and a
 ‘ Warmth in them, which I had not felt for
 ‘ many Weeks, and all my Secretions were
 ‘ regularly performed. I could eat a boiled
 ‘ Chicken, and drink half a pint of Wine in
 ‘ five or six Days, and slept well, which I
 ‘ had not done during my whole Illness, with-
 ‘ out the Assistance of *Opiats*. My Pains
 ‘ went off, and no Complaints, except a Weak-
 ‘ ness, remained. Notwithstanding this Suc-
 ‘ cess, I suffered my self to be persuaded, that
 ‘ a Medicine of that specific Gravity, might
 ‘ be attended with bad Consequences ; and
 ‘ that since the Obstructions were removed,
 ‘ the ordinary Methods in Physick would per-
 ‘ form the Rest. I left the Use of *Quicksilver*,
 ‘ and came to *London* ; but found my self
 ‘ daily Worse, and all my Complaints return-
 ‘ ed. I put my self again into the Hands of
 ‘ the two Physicians I had consulted before,
 ‘ who, I believe, did all the Power of Physick
 ‘ could attempt ; but my Pains returned, and
 ‘ the Secretions stopped again ; I could have no
 ‘ Sleep, and have been since informed, that
 ‘ those Gentlemen declared, they had little
 ‘ Hopes of my Recovery. After I had gone
 ‘ on thus for a Month, I resolved once again
 ‘ to try the Effect of *Quicksilver*, took the
 ‘ same Quantity, and it produced exactly the
 ‘ same Effect. I continued taking it every
 ‘ Morning

' Morning for seven Weeks, and have ever
 ' since enjoyed a perfect State of Health. I
 ' have known a remarkable Cure performed
 ' by it since, on a Lady, whose ill Digesti-
 ' on occasioned Violent Pains in her Stomach,
 ' for several Years, after Meals. I have also
 ' cured a Horse of the Glanders with it, by
 ' giving him an Ounce every Morning, for
 ' a Month. This is the History of my Case,
 ' and own, Sir, that I owe my Life to this
 ' Medicine. I know, that Physicians seem to
 ' Dispute by what Quality this Mineral can
 ' produce such Effects. I suppose these Effects
 ' may be produced from the Sulphur this Mi-
 ' neral contains, which, by many Experi-
 ' ments, I have found to be much purer than
 ' any of the Minerals, or most of the Metals.
 ' And if more Trials were made, perhaps the
 ' Efficacy of the Medicine might be preserv-
 ' ed, and the Objection avoided, of the Dan-
 ' ger of circulating so heavy a fluid in the
 ' Blood Vessels. *I am, Sir, your obliged*
bumble Servant.

Edward Lisle.

For Dr. Dover, at the Jerusalem Coffee-
House, London.

S I R,

' **A**S You have been so Generous as to be-
 ' stow the greatest Legacy ever given
 ' to the World, by any *English* or even *Eu-*
 ' *ropean* Physician, in which the Poor will
' equally

' equally share with the Rich, I think it my
 ' Duty to return you my hearty Thanks,
 ' not only for your Book, but the good
 ' Health I enjoy from taking *Quicksilver*,
 ' by the Advice of your intimate Friend
 ' *Lucas Selfe*, Esq; If you can have Patience
 ' to read the truth of my Case, I shall relate
 ' all I can recollect, from the 20th Year of
 ' my Age, to this present Time, being now
 ' Fifty-three. From 20 to 35 I drank very
 ' plentifully, in which last Year, I was seized
 ' with a severe fit of the Cholick in my Sto-
 ' mach that, about two Years after, returned
 ' by Drinking too much Port-Wine and Stale-
 ' Beer, which continued about seven Years,
 ' except some intervals of ease. At the Age
 ' of Forty-two, I abstained from all sorts
 ' of Malt-Liquors, for even Small-beer at
 ' Meals would immediately deprive me of
 ' my Appetite, and create a violent Pain in
 ' my Stomach. Then, for the space of two
 ' Years, I drank nothing but weak Rum
 ' Punch, with a red-hot Iron quenched in it,
 ' which agreed with me very well. At the
 ' Age of Forty-four, I had a severe fit of the
 ' Gout, by being too free with Port-Wines;
 ' my Legs alternately swelling to double their
 ' ordinary Size, I have had only two or three
 ' such Fits of the Gout since. I had then
 ' left off the use of small Punch, and drank
 ' nothing but Water at Meals, and a little
 ' Cyder between Meals, which Regimen a-
 ' I greed

' greed with me, as long as I used much
 ' Exercise; but with a sedentary Life, my
 ' Appetite was soon lost, and was recovered
 ' again by the use of Holt-Waters, which in
 ' about three Months Time, had no more
 ' effect than other fair Water. In the Winter
 ' 1728, and the Spring following, I was ill of
 ' a Fever and Ague, which raged at that
 ' Time; but went off, at last, in a small fit
 ' of the Gout; from whence I conclude, by
 ' my often Vomiting in that illness, that
 ' something of that Distemper was in my
 ' Stomach at that Time. At the latter end
 ' of the Summer, 1729, the Fever and
 ' Ague returned (attended as I suppose with
 ' the Gout at my Stomach) which continued
 ' some Time. In *October* 1729, for want of
 ' Exercise, I was often taken with Shiverings
 ' and great Pains in my Stomach, which were
 ' removed by Vomits and Purges, but would
 ' soon return. The latter end of *November*,
 ' I was seized with Heart-burnings, Wind and
 ' sour Belching, and my Mouth often filled
 ' with clear Water, which Water soon left
 ' me by the use of an Electuary, and a few
 ' Lozenges; but the Pain at my Stomach
 ' continued, upon which I took a Vomit,
 ' and applied a Clyster, but had no ease, 'till
 ' I took forty Drops at a Time of a Tincture,
 ' made with *Species Diambrae*, *Snake-root*,
 ' and compound spirit of *Lavender*, in a
 ' Draught of *Mint-Tea*, which I repeated,
 ' 'till

'till I thought my self perfectly recovered;
 But in the space of Twenty-four Hours my
 Stomach was uneasy, my Mouth filled with
 Water, and my Urine was Thick. The
 next Day my Stomach was very painful,
 which was eased by taking forty Drops of
 the Tincture aforesaid. *December* the 8th,
 I began to take four Pills, composed of the
 Gum-Pill, &c. Every Night and Morning,
 in a Glass of bitter Wine, and continued
 them 'till the Fifteenth, when I left off, and
 then the Pain at my Stomach and Chilliness
 returned. *January* the 4th, I found my
 Breath stinking in the Morning; I eat heartily,
 but had a very bad Digestion, and the
 Pain at my Stomach began to return. Thus
 I continued, sometimes better and sometimes
 worse, 'till the beginning of *May* 1730,
 when, being in greater Pain than usual, I
 was relieved by taking three Vomits in one
 Week. The 20th of *May* I took a stronger
 Vomit than ordinary, which produced no
 other Effect than the former. Then I applied
 my self to an eminent Physician, from
 whose Prescriptions, I received abundance of
 Benefit; but my Pains soon returned, and
 I became as bad as ever, and being almost
 Blind, which I attribute to frequent Vomits,
 I resolved not to enter into that Course any
 more, and expecting that Death would
 release me in a short Time, I bore my Affliction
 as well as I could. In the Month of

March 1730-1. I was advised by a Gentle-
 man to take *crude Mercury*, the very Name
 of which was so very Terrible, that most
 People, except one or two of Dr. *Dover's*
 Acquaintance, perswaded me against it; nei-
 ther would Money, which was offered,
 prevail upon any one to take it before me.
 By this means I lost a Month, during which
 Time, I suffered the most exquisite Pain
 imaginable, from the Gout in my Stomach;
 'till *Monday* the 5th of *April* 1731, about
 Ten at Night, in presence of Mr. *Selfe* and
 several other Persons, I boldly swallowed
 two Ounces of *Quicksilver*, went to Bed at
 Eleven, and slept heartily that Night,
 which was more than I had done for twelve
 Months before. I was easy the next Day,
 though my Stomach continued tender. A-
 bout Noon, which was about fourteen
 Hours after I had taken it, I found some
 small Globules of *Mercury* in my Excre-
 ment. I continued taking two Ounces
 every Day for six Days, and never failed of
 a Stool every Day, which before seldom
 happened above once in five Days. I saved
 most of my Urine, in the Sediment of
 which, I observed some small Globules of
Mercury and am well satisfied it must pass
 the *Ureters*. Thus I was eased of my *Gouty*
 Pains in the Stomach by the use of *Quick-*
silver, and by taking now and then four or
 five Doses, my Stomach grew stronger,
 and

' and my Constitution amended, to the Ad-
 ' miration of my Friends. Abundance of
 ' Questions were continually asked me, and
 ' People entertained different Notions of it,
 ' some saying it was Poison, others that I
 ' could not live six Months, and some twelve.
 ' In this ludicrous Manner I was treated,
 ' however, I thank God, I have lived in the
 ' Enjoyment of better Health above two
 ' Years, than I had done for eighteen Years
 ' before, and am in a perfect State of Health
 ' at present ; not but I have had some small
 ' Pains in my Stomach since I first took
 ' *Mercury*, which were soon removed, by ta-
 ' king an Ounce or two of *Mynsicht's Elixir*
 ' of *Vitriol* in a Glass of Water. I never
 ' perceived any ill Effect from *Mercury*, unless
 ' a salutary Spitting may be so term'd,
 ' which I must deny, since I found my self
 ' much better after it. And this never hap-
 ' pened but once in very cold Weather, when
 ' I believe, it was hindered from passing by
 ' Perspiration, and by that means was thrown
 ' back from its natural motion. However,
 ' a gentle dose of Physick soon put a stop to
 ' it, and I had an excellent Appetite to my
 ' Victuals immediately afterwards. Thus,
 ' Sir, have I related all I could recollect
 ' in my Case, and if you will have a little
 ' more Patience, will give an Account of the
 ' good Effects of this noble Medicine upon
 ' other Persons. Since it has pleased God to
 ' bestow

• bestow this great Blessing upon me, I thought
 • it my Duty to communicate it to my fellow
 • Creatures, and gave ocular Demonstration
 • to many of them, that there was no Diffi-
 • culty or Danger in taking it ; I have
 • leave to mention the Names of the follow-
 • ing Persons with their Diseases. *Titus Rake*
 • of *Bradford*, *Tallow-Chandler* was cured of
 • the Gout in his Stomach and Limbs. Mr.
 • *James Fellows*, of the same Place, *Bailiff* to
 • his Grace the Duke of Kingston, was cured
 • of the Gravel, although he could not Stoop,
 • by taking only eight Ounces of *Quicksilver*,
 • and has not been troubled with the Distem-
 • per since. The Reverend Mr. Dryer, and
 • the Wife of *Robert Townsend* of the same
 • Place, found great benefit in the same Dis-
 • order. *John Hanny a Tyler*, of this Town,
 • was so ill of the Cholick for many Years,
 • that he walked stooping, and recovered af-
 • ter taking a few Doses of it ; as did the
 • Wife of Mr. *Edmund Heall*, *Cloth-worker*.
 • Mr. *Matthew Smith*, *Clothier*, found imme-
 • diate ease in the same Disorder, by the two
 • first Ounces. *Edward Briscoe* of *Fresford*,
 • *Inn-keeper*, has found so much Benefit by
 • it in the same Disorder, that he declares he
 • would by no means be debarred the Use of it.
 • Mr. *Robert Townsend*, master of the Work-
 • House in this Town, was soon cured of a
 • violent Pain in his side. And one *Anthony*
 • *Tbreshier*, of *Ilford-Mill* near *Bradford*, hav-
 • ing

' ing been afflicted with the Cramp and
 ' Pain in his Stomach, and Reachings for
 ' seven Years past, took three Ounces and
 ' half of *crude Mercury* at twice, and has
 ' been perfectly well ever since. Mr. *John*
 ' *Orpin*, *Apothecary* at *Bath*, laboured un-
 ' der an *Hypochondriacal Disorder* with
 ' lowness of Spirits; when I had told him
 ' the Method of taking it, he took it, and
 ' was perfectly cured in a short Time,
 ' which he lately declared to a numerous
 ' Company, and has been so honest, as to
 ' give this Medicine to several of his Patients,
 ' and to recommend it to others, which was
 ' of Service to many Persons of Distinction
 ' in the following Seasons at *Bath*, whence it
 ' soon spread all over the Kingdom, and, I
 ' doubt not, will be generally approved of in
 ' a few Years. I hope, Sir, you will Pardon
 ' this trouble, from a Person you never saw,
 ' and for my own and my Countries sake sin-
 ' cerely wish you good Health, and long
 ' Life, and beg leave to subscribe my self,
 ' Sir,

Your great Admirer

Most Obliged and most

Bradford, May the
12th, 1733.

Humble Servant,

P. Affention.

To the AUTHOR of the Use and Abuse
of MERCURY.

S I R,

IT is very natural to imagine, that a Person who professes so much zeal for the Interest of his fellow Creatures, would not have concealed his Name ; but you chose this, suspecting that your Integrity might be questioned, for daily administering a Medicine, which you affirm at the same Time, will sap the Foundation of Life, and may be ranked among Poisons.

You seem surpris'd that the Author of the *Antient Physician's Legacy*, should prescribe it in such a variety of Diseases ; but you ought to have acquainted the Publick, that this Recommendation of *crude Mercury*, is supported by undeniable Facts, and a long series of Experience.

You seem to regret very much, that proper Observations were not made upon taking *Mercury* in the last Century, when it was almost as fashionable in *England*, as it is at present ; for you are thoroughly convinced, that the numerous instances of Persons prejudiced by it at that time, would have deterred wary people from the Use of it now. When you assert a Thing so positively, it is necessary you should inform us, at what Time

' Time this Medicine so universally prevail-
 ' ed. I can recollect some Instances in the
 ' last Century, when it was given with very
 ' good Success, Sir. *Nicholas Butler*, an eminent
 ' Physician in the Reign of *King James the 2d.*
 ' prescribed it to *Mrs. Cope* of *Austin Friars*,
 ' and was absolutely cured of a Lunacy by the
 ' Use of it. He likewise gave it to one *Miss*
 ' *Fuller*, who eat all manner of Trash, by
 ' which Practice she was brought to a lan-
 ' guishing Condition; but was happily cured
 ' by the Use of this Medicine. In the begin-
 ' ning of *King William's* Reign, I gave it two
 ' Ladies at *Bristol*, in very desperate Hyste-
 ' rical Cases, and both succeeded under my
 ' Care. If these are all the ill consequences
 ' of this slow Poison, the Ladies at least
 ' have no reason to fear it. I have taken it
 ' my self, upwards of forty-six Years, have
 ' travelled in all Climates, and am now se-
 ' venty Years of Age and more, and yet,
 ' thank God, I enjoy a perfect State of Health.
 ' You seem surprized that I have not explain-
 ' ed the Manner of this wonderful Fluid's
 ' Operation in Human Bodies; Give me leave
 ' to tell you, Sir, that the World will judge
 ' better of me, for owning my Ignorance,
 ' than if I had led them, as you have done,
 ' into a Labyrinth of unintelligible words.
 ' You promise great matters at first, to shew
 ' us the nature of *Mercury*, and the manner
 ' of its Operation, and then to produce se-

'veral instances of its pernicious Effects.
 ' But I leave it to the determination of every
 ' Person, whether you have not failed in your
 ' Promise; you say this Mineral has puzzled
 ' the Chymists, and from thence it may be
 ' reasonably concluded, you know as little.
 ' You are not contented with venting your
 ' Spleen against this Innocent and useful Me-
 ' dicine; but you endeavour to banish Inocu-
 ' lation out of the Kingdom, which I dare af-
 ' firm, even after the modern Method of Prac-
 ' tice, will save more than twenty out of an
 ' hundred that die of the Small-Pox the na-
 ' tural Way; you endeavour also to deter Peo-
 ' ple from cold Bathing, for fear it should in-
 ' flame the Lungs, whereas I have prescribed it
 ' in Consumptions, and found different effects.

' Notwithstanding you are so arch upon
 ' me, I am persuaded that you have been
 ' much the best Friend to Nurses and Grave-
 ' Diggers, and Challenge you to prove that
 ' I have lost three Patients, either in acute or
 ' chronick Cases, where I was first called,
 ' (though I have been eighteen Months in
 ' Town) and even without the help of Bli-
 ' sters. On the contrary, I can prove that
 ' several have recovered under my Hands,
 ' which have been thought incurable, by
 ' more than one of the Faculty.

' What follows is one of his wife Remarks
 ' upon a Part of my Treatise. After the
 ' Author, says he, has described a Consump-
 ' tion

' tion and Phthisick, in which he says the
 ' Patient complains of a soreness in his Breast,
 ' difficulty of Breathing, loss of Appetite,
 ' a violent heat and dryness in his Hands,
 ' with frequent and sudden flushings in his
 ' Face ; and (*observe well*) after he has given
 ' a Receipt to cure this Distemper, he con-
 ' cludes thus : I have lately experienced that
 ' *Quicksilver* is the most beneficial Thing in
 ' the World for the Lungs, taking one
 ' Ounce every Morning. I presume by
 ' this, *observe well*, that you take it for
 ' granted, the Lungs are not affected in an
 ' Asthma. In short, you have taken Abun-
 ' dance of Pains in this Laborious Trea-
 ' tise, to prove what every Body grants, that
 ' *Mercury* cannot be good in all Cases ; and
 ' to support what you assert, you say, the
 ' present practising Physicians, who are a
 ' set of learned and judicious Men, unani-
 ' mously agree that *Mercury* hardly produces
 ' any visible Advantage, but in Asthmias.
 ' I owe great Deference to the learned Fa-
 ' culty, but hope you don't include yourself,
 ' because, notwithstanding your elaborate Trea-
 ' tise *on the Use and Abuse of Mercury*, you
 ' have no Manner of pretension to that Title.
 ' You think to make me appear Ridicu-
 ' lous, when you affirm, that I prescribe an
 ' Ounce of *Quicksilver* every Morning, for
 ' a Month together, in the Stone. To con-
 ' vince you that this Prescription is not
 ' founded

‘ founded upon Conjecture, I shall produce
 ‘ you both the Facts and the Names, which,
 ‘ as a very great Man has observed, is that
 ‘ sort of Evidence that will not yield to the
 ‘ most persuasive Eloquence, or bend to the
 ‘ highest Authority.

‘ In answer to one of your Questions,
 ‘ whether Instances can be produced of *Quick-*
 ‘ *silver* passing by *Urine*, I shall give you
 ‘ full Satisfaction, by referring you to the
 ‘ following Persons. *Richard Freeman* of
 ‘ little *James-street*, *Bedford-Row*; *Ezekiel*
 ‘ *Wallis*, Esq; at *Luckenham*; and Mr. *As-*
 ‘ *senton*, of *Bradford* in *Wiltshire*. I make
 ‘ no doubt, if proper Glasses were used, but
 ‘ *Quicksilver* might be seen in the *Urine* of
 ‘ almost every Person that takes it, in greater
 ‘ or lesser Quantity. As it is an excellent
 ‘ Medicine in the Gravel, it must necessarily
 ‘ enter the Kidneys, and be conveyed by the
 ‘ Ureters from thence into the Bladder.

‘ Notwithstanding you pretend to so much
 ‘ zeal for the publick Good, your Artifice
 ‘ may be easily perceived; and you have ra-
 ‘ ther proved yourself an Enemy to Mankind,
 ‘ by decrying a Medicine which has per-
 ‘ formed such wonderful Cures. And if from
 ‘ your first, we may judge of your future
 ‘ Performances, I think I shall shew you to
 ‘ the World, by inverting my own *Motto*,
 ‘ *Homines ad Dæmona nulla in re propius ac-*
 ‘ *cedunt, quam salutem hominibus negando.*

‘ Crude

“ Crude Mercury will be very serviceable
 “ in beginning Plicatutres, of the Intestines,
 “ and in Foulnesses, hard Concretions, or
 “ Obstructions at the Mouths of the Lacteals;
 “ but evidently so in Asthmatick Cases, be-
 “ yond any other Medicine, by its Weight
 “ forcing open the obstructed Mouths of
 “ the Lacteals, and its steams thereby enter-
 “ ing the Habit, attenuate the Viscid Juices
 “ of the Lungs, and promote Expectoration.
 “ And, I think others, more appropriated
 “ and specifick Medicines failing, this from
 “ its safety ought to be tried in all Cases of the
 “ Alimentary Tube”. These are the Words
 “ of a very Learned and honest Physician,
 “ who has contributed very much towards the
 “ Health and Benefit of Mankind. You see,
 “ he is of Opinion, that *crude Mercury* is an
 “ admirable Medicine in Nervous disorders,
 “ though our most learned Gentlemen of the
 “ Faculty aver to the Contrary. Vide *Cheyne’s*
 “ *English Malady*, page 133.

“ I shall publish several Facts, and then
 “ turn you over to the Author of the *Antidote*
 “ for another Pill, when you think proper
 “ to favour us with a second Edition of your
 “ *Use and Abuse of Mercury*: But why will
 “ not these Friends to Mankind publish some
 “ Secrets of their own, particularly in the
 “ cure of Fevers, and tell us at the same
 “ Time, when we may hope the Grand
 “ Mystery of cooling a Person will be dis-
 “ covered?

covered? The Gentlemen of the Faculty have undoubtedly read the Institutes of *Riverius* and *Sennerlus*, whose first Axiom in the *Therapeutick* Part of Physick may be thus Translated: *Whatever is cured, is cured by Contraries*. Thus all living Creatures, when they are too Hot, remove to a cooler Regimen by instinct, and *vice versa*; and it would be the same if Mankind would follow nature's Directions.

Vulgar Errors are as thoroughly rooted, as the most inveterate Disease, and Reason and Physick are frequently baffled by both. How was the Use of the Bark, one of the best Remedies in the *Materia Medica*, formerly exploded? What Apprehensions of its ill Consequences, and strange misconstructions of its Effect? Neither merit in Man nor excellency in Medicine can be safe from such Mis-conception. The wise and honest Part of Mankind, naturally engage in Defence of both, and there are few noble Remedies discovered, either by Art or Chance, and brought into Practice by the judicious Part of the Faculty, which have not been generously supported by Reason and Argument, at the Time the Torrent of Popular Clamour was against them. The Cause of both is the same, and the Party formed against both the same likewise. The great Physician falls into a Practice, which the unskillful cannot imitate; there-

' therefore, such exert all the Malice, and en-
 ' deavour to blast what they cannot Copy.
 ' I only wish they would inform the World
 ' of their success, by that inhuman way of
 ' Vomiting and Blistering, besides their
 ' heating Bolusses and hotter Cordials, pre-
 ' scribed to be taking every second Hour,
 ' with Sack-whey and spirits of Harshorn.
 ' Let them publish something of this sort
 ' agreeable to the reason of Mankind. We
 ' are taken to be Guardians of Health and
 ' Life by many honest Gentlemen ; but how
 ' far must they be Disappointed, when it is
 ' in the Power of Apothecaries to recommend
 ' Physicians, who always prefer those who
 ' prescribe most for their Interest.

' After all that has been said of this noble
 ' Remedy, I cannot recommend so general
 ' a Use of it, which often brings it to dis-
 ' credit ; and though it does many Things,
 ' it will not do all. If it would not be
 ' thought that I speak with a view to my
 ' own Interest, I should direct the Patient,
 ' always to consult a Physician, who under-
 ' stands the nature of *Mercury*, before he
 ' enters upon its Use.

SOME



S O M E R E M A R K S

Upon the late Controversy concerning
the Use of MERCURY.



THOUGH the Use of *crude Mercury* has been so strongly recommended to the World, by the Author of the *Legacy* and *Mr. Belloste*, that Practice has met with the common Fate of others, and has been severely censured by some learned Gentlemen of the Faculty. Both these Authors seem to have acted very candidly, and have only related some Historical facts of Cures performed by this Remedy, from a long series of Practice and observation; the latter has, Indeed, added some Philosophical reasonings of his own, concerning the manner of its Operation, which he

he very modestly offers to the Publick. It was to be expected, that a Medicine introduced in such a manner, supported by undeniable Facts, and confirmed by men of Candour and veracity; should have met with a different Reception. But this, as I said before, is so common, that we have a late Instance of it, with respect to the Use of the *Bark* in the Cure of *Mortifications*. It was ushered into the World in the same Manner, attended with undeniable proofs of its excellency in such Cases, yet was so far rejected by the Gentlemen of the Faculty, that they absolutely refused to prescribe it. Vide *Douglass* upon the use of the *Bark* in *Mortifications*.

But Mankind will be farther satisfied of the Use of *crude Mercury* in many Diseases, by reading those letters the substance of which are in this present Edition, and well attested by Persons of Honour and Integrity.

I can't perceive, that those who have opposed this Remedy, have brought it into the least disesteem; and a certain Physician who has been so free as to treat Mr. *Belloste* like a Quack, and turn his Philosophy into Ridicule is indebted to him for the Invention of a Pill, which he says, is far preferable to the others. How much more preferable it may be, will better appear, when he gives us an equal number of Instances of the Cures he has performed with his own. But although he has so severely censured the *French* Author, I cannot

not perceive that he has been able to contradict the truth of what he relates, which is the chief point in question, and not whether his Instances are Philosophically or Unphilosophically accounted for. It is insignificant, whether he has given a Mechanical solution of the Operation of Mercury or not, provided the Remedy has performed those Cures he has related. This is the chief thing to be regarded ; a History of Facts is more serviceable in behalf of a Medicine, than the most Philosophical Discourse, and it is one Thing to account for the Cause of Diseases, and the Operation of Medicines, and another to understand the nature of Distempers, and how to relieve them.

This Controversy was originally begun in favour of the Apothecaries, whose business must decline if this remedy prevailed ; and they seem to have employed a Person on purpose to explode the whole performance of its first Promoter : But the qualities of *Quicksilver* are too well known to want an Encomium. Those, who reckon it a Poison, have never reflected upon its Properties, or duly weighed the nature of Poisons, whose Particles absolutely differ in figure from those of this *Mineral*, the one being acute and inciding, the other smooth and globular. Hence its property of blunting acids evidently follows ; for when it happens to come in contest with such Particles, it breaks and destroys those

those *Spicula* which are so mischievous to the Body, and by that means forces it from all that is Sharp and Acrimonious. But its most powerful influences proceed from that Essential Property in common to all Minerals and Metals, which more readily conveys it into the minutest Channels. By Essential Property I mean that absolute gravity in common to them all, and whose difference consists only in the Compactness of their component Parts, from whence one is said to be Specifically heavier or lighter than another. As all *Minerals* and *Metals* have this Property of gravitation, from the laws of Nature, it follows, that when they are mixed with the Blood, the quantity of its motion will be increased in proportion to the Specifick gravity of the *Mineral*. From this single Property it will not be difficult to explain the wonderful Effects of *crude Mercury* in Animal Economy, and the changes both Fluids and Solids must undergo by the force of its percussions, and it is to this power chiefly that the Learned Dr. *Freind* in his *Emmenologia* attributes the destruction of the *Uterine Vessels*. The Effect of heavy Bodies upon the Fluids being therefore proportionate to their Gravities, that of Mercury will be more Efficacious than any other lighter than it self. It is true indeed, that some Chymical Preparations of this *Mineral* will soon raise a Salivation, which proceeds only from its Combination with the Salts of
the

the *Menstruum* in which it has been dissolved, whose operation is assisted by the gravity of the *Mercury*.

Thus you see the action of this *Mineral* consists only in the gravity of its Particles, when unassisted by Chymical Management, and that even then it is the principal Cause of the Effect produced. But in what form soever it is admitted into the Mass of Blood, it will certainly divide its Cohesions, and make it more fit for Secretion : For it is impossible it should be mixed with the Blood, as it increases its Motion, without producing Effects answerable to that increase, which according to the learned *Dr. Cheyne* in his *Theory of Fevers*, is so very considerable, that he computes more may be done toward the deobstruction of the Vessels in one day by the Assistance of *Mercury*, than by the Blood it self, without that Assistance, in the space of three Years. If its Power be so extensive, as this computation allows, what wonderfull alterations must succeed its admission into the mass of Blood, and what Encouragement is not given to its use, in all Diseases, where the Viscid state of the Fluids disposes the Vessels to Obstruction.

As the *Doctor* had found fault, that *Mr. Belloste's* Reasonings were neither Mechanical or Philosophical, I have given this short Account of its Properties and Operation, in a Manner more agreeable to the modern Philo-

Philosophy, and wish it may prove acceptable. But if these Gentlemen have not Authority sufficient to make so valuable a Remedy well received, there are some others of undoubted Capacity, Learning and Reputation, who having espoused its Cause. Dr. Freind in his *Emmenologia* has given the following Character of *Æthiops Minerals*, which is only *crude Mercury* prepared with *Sulphur*,
 ‘ that he has found the continual Use of it,
 ‘ not only safe, but always effectual ; and yet
 ‘ this Preparation is generally postponed to
 ‘ other Preparations of *Mercury*, upon its
 ‘ being more easily prepared than the rest.
 ‘ Thus the Operation of *Quicksilver* holds
 ‘ Universally the same, which, however
 ‘ constant it may be, does not in the least
 ‘ hinder its being endowed with other Pro-
 ‘ perties; for it not only opens obstructed
 ‘ Vessels, but also as often blunts the points
 ‘ of *Acids*.

Was *Mercury* endowed only with these Properties mentioned by that learned Gentleman, they would be sufficient to recommend the Use of it to Mankind, and it is as certain, that in such respects, it is the most efficacious Medicine in Physick ; but for other extraordinary and surprizing Effects of this *Mineral*, I refer the Reader to the former Part of this Book, where he finds the Blind restored to Sight, and the Lame soon brought to Stand

Stand and Walk, by the sole Assistance of this Medicine.

It is disputed, but I think without Reason, whether *Mercury* enters the *Lacteals* or not. There is no Body, who considers its Divisibility and aptitude of subliming by a gentle Heat, who can in the least doubt its being capable of entering those Vessels, and of doing infinite Service when admitted.

If Mr. *Belloste*'s method of Reasoning is not so very exact, his Facts ought to be supposed true, 'till the contrary is proved, and I don't find that his Character affords any room to suspect them. His way of accounting for the Operations of *Mercury* agree in general with those of two eminent Philosophers, Dr. *Freind* and Dr. *Cheyne*. But the Credit of the Medicine does not depend upon this, daily Experience convinces us of its efficacy in most Diseases: Tho' I must needs confess, that taken alone in large Quantities, its gravity Precipitates it too soon; but when mixed with a proper *Menstruum* which gradually Dissolves, it enters the *Lacteals*, and insinuates its self in the most minute Vessels, and then performs those wonderful Offices of removing Obstructions, of throwing off what is Vicious, and rendering the Juices fit for Circulation.

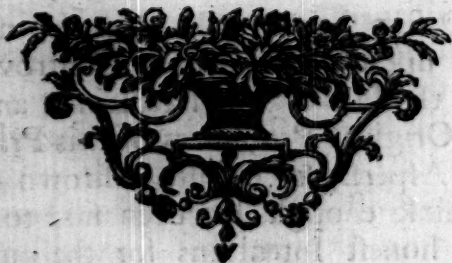
Its specifick Gravity renders it the most powerful Deobstruent, and its Divisibility makes it capable of entering the minutest Vessels,

Vessels, and though divided *ad infinitum*, it still retains its Sphericity. Its Parts are perfectly smooth, polished and globular, whence it more easily Rolls with the Blood in Circulation, and produces those Alterations which preserve the Animal Œconomy. This *French* Surgeon, who was a Man of Eminence in his Profession ingenuously Confesses that he first received his Hints of the extraordinary Use of this Medicine by chance, these are his own Words Translated, I am ready to Acknowledge, that my first entrance upon the Use of this Remedy, was not from the result of Reasoning; however, the success I met with from its first Administration, emboldned me to adhere to it, and future Business gave me an Opportunity of trying its Effects in several Chronical and inveterate Diseases, which, though deemed incurable, entirely submitted to the powerful influence of *Mercury*.

My Design being only to make a few Remarks upon the present Controversy, relating to the Use of this Medicine, and to justify the Original Promoters of this Practice from the Aspersions unjustly thrown upon them, I think enough has been said to confirm their honest Intentions for the publick Good; and don't in the least doubt, but future Instances will appear to corroborate a Cause so heartily Undertaken. At present Mankind seems to be divided by the Misrepresentation

representation of some Writers, who admire nothing but the Product of their own Inventions ; but I hope a steady Application, and Diligent enquiry into matters of Fact, will at length prevail over those, who seem rather to Act from a principle of Interest, than a sincere Love to their fellow Creatures.

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